

wounded to the fort. Even at this late day, if search were made, I am of the opinion, that the bones of seventeen Indians could yet be found bleaching on the battle-ground, and between it and where the Indians crossed the Pekatonica;\* among them the bones of the Indian I killed at the spot where they crossed. The shout I sent forth when I fired, was, "That's my hair!"—a cant expression then in vogue to denote a scalp.

In a subsequent communication which I addressed to you in reply to Mr. Parkinson I did not deem it necessary to enter into a specific refutation of all the tergiversations contained in his essay, or to expose his mawkish attempt to make me an assailant of Gen. Dodge, and of his self election to the post of his defender. Although my memory might have failed me as to other facts touching the events of that day, it must be supposed, that I could not well forget the rank I held; this Mr. Parkinson denied, which, if uncontradicted must be construed as an impeachment of my veracity; I therefore confined myself in that reply, to simply correcting him on this point, and to infer from it that, if belonging to the same company and associated with me for sometime at the same post, he could not recollect my rank, that his memory could not be depended on as to other facts wherein he differed from me, &c., &c. To this Mr. Parkinson has rejoined, by a communication addressed to you through the columns of the *Tribune* of the 10th of February, wherein he rather lamely concedes the question as to my rank as first Lieutenant, but seems determined to pluck some of the feathers from my plume by proving *positively* that Kirkpatrick commanded the detachment from Fort Defiance, to Fort

\*In Edward Beouchard's narrative, we find the following paragraph relative to the number of Indians slain: "After the battle, eleven Indians were found dead on the ground; two more, who were wounded, had got up the river-bank, and were tracked and finally scalped by the Winnebagoes; Colonel Hamilton, sometime afterwards, found the body of another, after the prairie fires had passed over them; and late in the succeeding winter, a French trapper found three more, in the swamp near the battle ground, beneath brush-wood, under which they had crawled when wounded." The whole number thus accounted for, of the Sauks who fell in this fight, was seventeen; and at a subsequent period, when at Rock Island, after the termination of the war, Beouchard understood from some of the Sauks, that Black Hawk had often spoken of a band of seventeen of his braves, of whom he had never received any intelligence, and he knew not what had become of them. Black Hawk, in his autobiography, makes no allusion to this affair.