

Strictures Upon Ford's Black Hawk War

By Peter Parkinson, Jr.

MADISON, Sept. 10, 1854.

Mr. Brown, Editor of the Argus & Democrat:

DEAR SIR:—Upon my arrival in this place, a few days since, my attention was called to a couple of Chapters of Gov. Ford's History of Illinois, published in your paper, purporting to be a true history of a portion of the *Black Hawk war*, in which the manifest object of the historian is so apparent, and the means made use of to accomplish that object are so unsupported by truth, that I (as one who was an eye witness to nearly all the circumstances pretended to be given in those two chapters, and one who is unwilling that the public mind should be misled upon this subject) am constrained to give them a passing notice.

In the first place, it is not true, as stated in Gov. Ford's History, that Gen. Dodge endeavored to avoid going from Fort Winnebago to the rapids of Rock River (where the enemy was then supposed to be) in consequence of the worn down condition of his horses; neither did he refuse to go without written orders from Gen. Henry. The facts are, that Gen. Dodge was the first to suggest and urge this course to Gens. Henry and Alexander—Gen. Henry assenting, and Gen. Alexander dissenting. This was the universal understanding at the time by all parties. I have since been informed by Col. Daniel M. Parkinson, of Lafayette county, who commanded a company under Gen. Dodge at the