

histories are written by men, like Gov. Ford, who know nothing personally of the matters about which they write.

The killing of St. Vrain and his party, and the battle of the Pekatonica, are very imperfectly and incorrectly given by Gov. Ford. I was at the burying of Mr. St. Vrain and his party, at which Aquilla Floyd was also present, who had with two others of the party, made his escape, and his account of the affair certainly bears no analogy to that given by Gov. Ford. I was also an unimportant actor in the battle of the Pekatonica, and know the account given by Gov. Ford to be quite as I have stated. The affair at Pekatonica was the first defeat that the Indians had met with since the commencement of hostilities. They were a chosen band of fourteen, occupying the most advantageous position, under the bank of a slough completely covered, or concealed by thick under-brush. We were nineteen in number, and exposed to their cool and deliberate first fire, at which four of our men fell, leaving us but one superior to them in numbers. It was a hand-to-hand encounter, steel clashed against steel, the woods resounded with the most terrific yells of the savage, until the last one was exterminated; and had you been there, I am confident, Mr. Editor, you would have thought it a little more than a simple *killing* of a few red skins.

Up to this period, the Indians had been signally triumphant in every engagement. Maj. Stillman, at the mouth of the Kish-wau-kee River, about 30 miles above Dixon, on the Rock River, had been most shamefully defeated, by a force much inferior to his own. Soon after this, Col. (at that time Maj.) Dement, at Kellogg's Grove, suffered a most disastrous defeat by a much inferior force to his own; and, not long after this, Maj. Stephenson, commanding the most chosen troops of Illinois, was also signally defeated by the enemy.* Thus it will be seen, that the enemy had, in every instance, been victorious over the Illinois forces. Being em-

*Strictly speaking, Majors Stephenson and Dement's encounters with the Indians happened after the Pekatonica battle—the former on the 18th, and the latter on the 25th of June.

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