

volunteers; and though he had under his command many intelligent and brave men and good officers, yet his want of decision rendered his men insubordinate and disorderly. Fearful if we should encounter the enemy, that they would desert us and leave us to be overpowered by numbers, the miners to a man insisted on exchanging them for either Henry's or Alexander's brigade. This was effected on our arriving at Lake Kosh-ko-nong. After we had pitched our camp for the night at that place, Gen. Dodge repaired to Atkinson's camp, which was about six miles distant, at the outlet of the lake, and procured an exchange of Posey's for Alexander's brigade. Gen. Alexander having joined us early the next morning, we moved up the west side of Rock River, and on the second day joined Gen. Atkinson at the Burnt Village on Bark River.

The provisions of the volunteers being nearly exhausted, Dodge's command, with Henry's and Alexander's brigades, were ordered to Fort Winnebago, about fifty miles distant, for supplies. Gen. Dodge with his command of between two hundred and fifty and three hundred men, proceeded in advance of Henry and Alexander. This was a movement fraught with the greatest danger to him and his command; the march was directly toward the enemy, who were estimated at from 800 to 1,200 warriors. Had we encountered them, being beyond supporting distance from the Illinois brigade, we must have been overpowered. Fortune, however, favored us, and we reached Fort Winnebago on the evening of the second day, and shortly after were joined by Henry's and Alexander's brigades.

On arriving at the fort, Gen. Dodge at once set to work to find out the position of the enemy from a number of Winnebago Indians who were at that time at the fort. This he effected through Pierre Poquette, a half-breed and their interpreter, over whom he had great influence. Through him he learned that the enemy were encamped on Rock River, at a place now known as Hustis' Rapids. Having ascertained the position of the enemy, his next object was to prevail on Generals Henry and Alexander to dis-