

before they were overtaken by the army, they were encountered on the Mississippi River by the steam-boat *Warrior*, on board of which were a number of United States soldiers, under Lieutenant Kingsbury, with two pieces of artillery; these checked their retreat across the river until towards night, when the boat was compelled to fall back to Prairie du Chien for a supply of fuel. Having supplied herself, she returned the next day at the close of the battle. After transporting a detachment of United States soldiers under Col. Z. Taylor, to two large islands in front of the battle ground, where it was supposed there was a number of the enemy, she left next day, carrying General Atkinson, his staff, and nearly all the U. S. troops and wounded down the river to Fort Crawford. A short time previous to her departure, the celebrated Sioux chief Wa-ba-shaw, with a number of warriors, reported himself to Gen. Atkinson. He was immediately dispatched in pursuit of the enemy, and the little remnant of Black Hawk's band of men, women and children who had escaped into their own country from starvation and the bayonets and bullets of the white men, were nearly all exterminated by that chief and his warriors, their hereditary foes.\*

CHARLES BRACKEN.

April, 1856.

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\*Black Hawk thus speaks of this needless cruelty: "On my arrival at Prairie du Chien, I found to my sorrow, that a large body of Sioux had pursued and killed a number of our women and children, who had got safely across the Mississippi. The whites ought not to have permitted such conduct—none but cowards would ever have been guilty of such cruelty which has always been practised on our nation by the Sioux."

Another incident of the war, which is nowhere mentioned in the narratives of the Wisconsin survivors of the war, was this—gathered from Black Hawk's autobiography, and Gen. Atkinson's report of Bad Ax battle. That after the battle of Wisconsin Heights, a party of Black Hawk's followers descended the Wisconsin, hoping to escape to the west side of the Mississippi, that they might return home. But Capt. Loomis, who commanded the garrison at Prairie du Chien, and Gen. Street the Indian Agent, had placed a detachment, a short distance above the mouth of the Wisconsin, under the command of Lieutenant Ritner, who fired upon the distressed and forlorn Indians—capturing thirty-two women and children, and four men, and killing some fifteen men; and Black Hawk adds, that "others were drowned, and the balance escaped to the woods and perished with hunger; among this party were many women and children." It is stated in the *Galena Gazette*, of August 6th, that on the 4th of that month, "a party of fifteen men from Cassville, under command of Captain Price, were reconnoitering the country between that place and the Wisconsin, and fell upon a fresh Sauk trail making towards the Mississippi. They rushed with full speed of horses, and soon came upon, killed and took prisoners to the number of twelve." This party of Sauks were probably some of those who had escaped from Lieut. Ritner's attack.

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