

stands; the house of one Larrivier, and two others that I cannot correctly locate.

I have said that all Prairie Du Chien was included in what is now termed the main village. But, at that time there were many more houses and inhabitants there, than at present. It is true that the people were chiefly Canadians, Frenchmen and traders; and their habitations were less prized for architecture than comfort, yet there was much to admire in the neighborly sociality that pervaded the early society. The old Fort Crawford was then commanded by Maj. Kearney,* and garrisoned by the 1st Regiment of U. S. Infantry. Among the soldiers were many persons, who possessed thorough and even classical education, whom adventure or some other motive, had enlisted in the United States Army. There was a young man of this class in Fort Crawford named Reneka. He was a favorite with both the officers and men. His strict, soldier-like attention to duty, and courteous bearing, made him many friends, and he bid fair to occupy the highest non-commissioned rank in the Army. But in an unguarded moment he allowed himself to accept the proffered invitation of his comrades, to join them in a social glass, and—fell. Unaccustomed to liquor, the poison soon flew to his brain, and complained of being dreadful sick; he immediately left his companions, and started for the barracks. Entering the sally-port with a firm but excited tread, he passed the sentry on his way to his quarters, from which he was directly afterwards seen to issue with a rifle. The rifle was one which he had purchased a short time before, for the purpose of hunting, and always kept it in his quarters, ready loaded. It is supposed that on reaching his room, the liquor he drank had made him crazy, for taking his rifle, he rushed out into the parade, and raving like a maniac, he whirled the

*STEPHEN WATTS KEARNEY was born in Newark, N. J., August 30, 1794, and entered the army as a Lieutenant in March, 1812; and was particularly distinguished at the battle of Queenstown Heights, was promoted to Captain in 1813; Brevet Major in 1823, Major in 1829, Lieut. Colonel in 1833, and Colonel in 1836. In 1846, he was made Brigadier General, and commanded the Army of the West, and conquered New Mexico and California; in the battle of San Pascual he was twice wounded, and brevetted a Major General. From March to June, 1847, he was Governor of California, and died Oct. 31st, 1848, at St. Louis, Mo., in consequence of disease contracted while in the discharge of his official duties. His character and bearing as an officer were unsurpassed.