

No. 12

In 1848, when orders were received at Fort Crawford to remove the Winnebagoes, several attempts were made to do so, but with poor success. Early in the same year I received the following official letter:

"OFFICE SUB INDIAN AGENT,

"Turkey River, Jan. 4, '48.

"SIR—In answer to your inquiry respecting the disposition to be made of the Winnebago Indians, who may be found wandering about through the country, I have to say, that I wish you to arrest them, cause them to be securely guarded, and report them to me as early as may be practicable.

"Very respectfully,

"Your obd't servant,

"J. E. FLETCHER,

"Indian Ag't.

"To Lieut. _____,

"Comd'g Ft. Crawford, W. T."

Upon receipt of the above, I made all necessary preparation, and started with fifty men to collect the Indians. This attempt was quite successful, and several hundred were arrested, and sent to Fort Atkinson, Iowa. It may appear strange to some persons, that such a handful of men could take many hundred Indians prisoners, and guard them day and night as we traveled through a wild, unsettled country; but it was done, and I have a list of the names of those men who accompanied me on that expedition. My journal, kept during the time we were hunting the Indians, presents numerous interesting items, only one or two of which, I will relate.

In taking the Indians, great caution was necessary to enable us to approach them. When the scouts reported that Indians had been discovered, four or five of the men would start on ahead, enter the Winnebago camp, collect all the guns and take off the locks, before the Indians were aware of their intention. Frequently a hunting party would come in while the