

future plans of escape from the grasp of his pursuers, they both started for Prairie La Crosse, one hundred miles up the Mississippi, where he could cross to the west side, and again be secure among the remnant of his tribe under the young chief Keokuk.

But in this he was alike deceived and unfortunate. As day broke, Cha-e-tar and De-cor-ra, believing he had sought refuge in the great cave in one of the twin bluffs, about fifteen miles west, started on their hurried journey, and had proceeded but a few miles ere they came upon the well known trail of the fugitives. Though prepared for the emergency, their instructions were to take them alive, if possible, and their policy was to keep close on their footsteps, well knowing they could make the capture before crossing the river. For two days these wary chiefs kept close in Black Hawk's rear, until on the evening of the second they saw their victims enter the wigwams of their band at the river, and in a few moments after they were in the presence of the fugitive chief and his companion. Black Hawk saw at once his fate was sealed, he was in the hands of his captors, his long cherished visions of triumph over his white enemies instantly vanished, but he was still a brave, a warrior that could meet his worst fate with dignified composure. His cup of misery was well nigh full. His loved wife and children he believed killed or taken prisoners, and most of his followers gone to the spirit land; he stood almost alone of his once powerful band of noble Sacs. But still he retained his native dignity, the unconquered chieftain of the Wisconsin. With a proud and sullen look of contempt and withering scorn on his treacherous captors, he silently held out his hands for the accustomed cord.

The prisoners were at once secured and taken down to Gen. Street, at Prairie Du Chien, the Indian agent, who sent them immediately to Jefferson Barracks.

The captors received the large promised reward for this important service, important doubtless it was to the Government, but of exceeding doubtful character to a great and chivalrous nation. And an act that has justly consigned the degraded