

and peaceably living upon their lands when the Indians, under Black Hawk, attempted to dispossess them."

This extract, short as it is, contains the following "gross perversions of facts:"

*First.*—Black Hawk knew all about it—it was at his own request that it was written—and is a literal translation of his own statements. He made it in his own justification—and as such it was submitted to the public.

*Second.*—The position of Col. Davenport was not such as the historian assigns him. He was a friend of the Keokuk or peace party, and *opposed* to Black Hawk.

*Third.*—Although Black Hawk was grieved at the course taken by the whites who settled upon what he deemed *his* land, he repeatedly advised non-resistance; and did not attribute the war to the "border white people," but to far different causes—treachery on the part of members of his own tribe, deceptive treaties, and a firm belief that Government was trespassing upon his rights.

My personal knowledge of Black Hawk warrants me in asserting that he was, in many respects, *a noble man*. A man deeply imbued with a sense of justice—gifted with a fine intellect—and jealous of his reputation. It was because he had been kindly treated by the whites, among whom he traveled subsequent to his overthrow, that he desired to lay before them the motives which actuated him to rebellion against the whites, in order that they might know that he *thought* he had good reasons for his course. Although as editor of the *Galenian*, during the Black Hawk war, I advocated the cause of the white settlers and maintained their rights; when, afterward, I became acquainted with the vanquished chieftain, and satisfied of the sincerity of his motives, and his desire to vindicate himself before those whom he had been represented as having wronged—I willingly undertook the task of editing "his own story."

Several years ago, while at Springfield, at the time Governor Ford was preparing matter for his intended History of Illinois,