

Winnebagoes and the Black Hawk War

The following article, from the *Washington Constitution*, of April 17, 1859, contains some interesting facts, worthy of preservation, relative to the part acted by the Winnebagoes in opposing Black Hawk and his followers during the border hostilities of 1832:

The Winnebagoes consist of about 2,000 men, women and children, of whom very favorable accounts have usually been received for several years past. In the last annual report of the agent, Mr. Charles E. Mix, they are described as "uniformly peaceable and inoffensive." But two or three instances of drunkenness had of late been known among them; and in these—whatever may be thought of such rules in more enlightened communities—the white venders of the "fire-drink" were promptly and justly punished by the imposition of heavy fines. The agent states further, that these Indians have applied themselves with earnestness to the pursuits of agriculture, the necessity of which they have been made to feel most keenly by the almost total disappearance of the buffalo and other profitable game from their prairies and forests. Model farms have been established by the agency; farming implements have been provided for the Indians; manual-labor schools are conducted for the benefit of their children; and in every respect the true welfare of the tribe is sought to be promoted by the United States Government, and not without gratifying evidences of success.

The delegation of that tribe who have just visited Washington, endeavored to establish the claims of a number of their warriors to bounty land for military services rendered to our Government. These claims have been presented heretofore; but the absence of the company rolls, and all other recorded evidence, have presented obstacles apparently insurmountable. Conscious of their right, however, these men persist in their