

Sioux and the Black Hawk War

[The substance of a talk held at Prairie Du Chien, the 22d of June, 1832, by Gen. Street, Indian Agent, with the Sioux, who turned back, after starting with Col. Hamilton to join the army commanded by Gen. H. Atkinson. From the *Illinois Galenian*, of July 11, 1832.]

GEN. STREET:—I wish to know why you have left the army? Heretofore, under the instructions of your Great Father the President, I have endeavored to keep the peace between all his red children. When your friends were killed by the Sacs and Foxes, I advised you not to revenge; your Great Father would see justice done. That all the Indians were alike under his protection; who, as Father of all, desired to see them live in peace and harmony. The Sacs and Foxes had behaved bad; they had killed several Indians of different nations; but the President was desirous to keep peace, and urged them to wait, and he would have justice done. He wished to show the Indians how much better and happier they would be, if they would live in peace as brothers, than in a state of war, one revenging his friend to day, and the other retaliating the next. This would be an endless war, where the nations could feel no security. Your Great Father wanted to learn you to seek *justice*, and not *revenge*. When a murder was committed, to give up the murderer, and let him be punished as an example to deter other Indians from like offenses.

Your Great Father feels towards his red children as you feel towards yours. He does not want to kill, but reclaim them, and make them good. When they err, and are bad, he chastises them; and if they can be, he will make them good. But when you revenge, the innocent are killed more frequently than the guilty. You make no distinction between virtue and crime, the good and the bad. This is not right. And