

arisen a difficulty. The two murderers were the adopted sons of an old Fox woman, who was loth to give them up. Hope was entertained, however, that her consent would finally be obtained. Thereupon, exasperated at the delay, and at what he perhaps suspected was Indian cunning, he levelled his rifle at the chief who represented the council, and shot him dead on the spot. An instantaneous rush was made on the officer to revenge the death of the chief, when another chief, rising and interfering, said: "It was the delay to act, that killed the chief, and not the officer. They owed what had happened to themselves." The party gave back, when the officer again demanded the instant surrender of the two young offenders. An answer was given: "We expect to get the old foster woman's consent soon." The officer having charged his rifle, shot down the speaker, whereupon a young Indian standing by, seized his gun and shot the officer.

The news flew—the French camp was presently in motion. War and revenge were resolved on. Reinforcements came in, in aid of the French, and the then powerful Chippewa and Menomonee bands. An immediate march was taken up, and the Fox Indians were now doomed to stand alone against the united power of the French, the Chippewas and Menomonees. The parties met on that beautiful piece of tableland, in nearly the center of which stands "Le Petit Butte des Morts." The Foxes were surrounded, and a desperate fight was fought, which resulted in the killing of vast numbers on both sides, but in great havoc among the Foxes. The survivors retreating farther up and along the shores of Lake Winnebago, were overtaken, and made another stand on the ground where now stands "Le Grand Butte des Morts." Here the parties fought to desperation, but the Foxes were literally cut to pieces. The tradition says all were slain, except about twenty; and these flying before their blood-thirsty pursuers were overtaken at the La Prairie du Chien, and made prisoners.*

*In the report of the Land Commissioner for the adjustment of land claims in Michigan territory, in 1820, occurs this reference to this war: "The Fox Indians were attacked and signally defeated by the French troops under Captain Morand, with the aid of their allies, the Chippewas, in the winter of 1706, at a place since called 'La Butte des Morts'; a great proportion of them were destroyed in this engagement, and many driven from the country."