

The Indian Wars of Wisconsin

By Moses M. Strong

The law of destiny demands that the aboriginal Mongolian inhabitants of the cultivable portions of the North American continent, should give place to the advancing civilization of the Caucasian race.

The demonstration of this proposition does not require a resort to any ethnological theories, nor the application of the principles of natural selection, or the survival of the fittest. The history of the occupation and settlement of this portion of the globe by the white man during the last three or four centuries, and of the Indian wars incidental to the substitution of the ideas and modes of the white man for those of the red man, abundantly attest its truth. If it were otherwise, the desire on the present occasion to present historical facts rather than maintain theories, forbids any metaphysical investigation of the remote causes which have resulted in supplanting savagism with civilization.

It is not the design of this paper to present anything novel or original; but only to collect from the scattered authorities where they are to be found, and present the authentic contemporaneous accounts of the Indian wars which have occurred upon the soil of Wisconsin, from its earliest occupancy to the present time, embracing their causes, casualties and consequences.

Indian wars, with their attendant horrors and savage atrocities, have ever been concomitants of the primitive permanent settlement of every part of the United States, from those which followed the settlement at Jamestown and Plymouth, to the late wars with the Sioux and Nez Perces in Dakota, Wyoming and Montana—with, perhaps, the single exception of the Quaker settlements in Pennsylvania.

When and by whom the very earliest visitations of white men