

"We have always been your friends. We have said that you would be honest, and true to your treaties. Do not let your actions deceive us. So long as you are true and faithful, we will extend the hand of friendship to you and your children. If unfaithful to your treaties, you must expect to share the fate of the Sauks."

The Winnebagoes promised to be faithful to their treaties, and remain at peace; but it is well known that their promises were inspired alone by fear, while the desire for revenge was with them the predominant passion.

Black Hawk, regardless of the obligations of the treaty into which he had entered the previous year, crossed the Mississippi early in the spring of 1832, with the intention of using all his endeavors, even unto war, to recover possession of his village. Governor Reynolds again called upon the militia of Illinois, and in a few days eighteen hundred men responded to the call. They were organized into four regiments, and a spy battalion, under the general command of General Samuel Whiteside, of the State militia. The line of march was taken up from Beardstown, on the 27th of April, for the mouth of Rock River. General Atkinson had left Jefferson Barracks on the 8th of April, and set out for the Upper Mississippi with the regular forces of the United States army; and Black Hawk, with his whole tribe of followers, began to move up Black River. General Whiteside, in pursuance of arrangements with General Atkinson, moved up Rock River to the Prophet's town; and finding that Black Hawk was still in advance, they burned the Prophet's village, and moved on about forty miles to Dixon's Ferry, where a halt was made to await the arrival of General Atkinson with the regular forces. At Dixon were found two battalions of mounted volunteers, consisting of about three hundred men, under command of Majors Stillman and Bailey.

Major Stillman, with his force, was ordered up Rock River to spy out the Indians. He began his march on the 12th of May; and, about the middle of the afternoon of the 14th, the battalion halted for the purpose of encamping for the night. It has been said, and is probably true, that many of the men were intoxicated,