

generally entertained, which were by no means allayed by their promises of fidelity, friendship and peace made to Col. Dodge at the talk held only a few days before.

When Col. Dodge retired for the night, no appearance of danger or disaffection could be discovered. But during the night he was awakened, and informed that the Indians had left the quarters assigned them, and gone into the bush; that White Crow, the orator, had been endeavoring to stir up the other Indians to hostility; that they were sulky, moody and stealthy in their conversation and movements; that they had been grinding their knives, tomahawks and spears, and that two athletic young warriors had gone stealthily in the direction of the Four Lakes, where the main body of the Winnebagoes were encamped.

Col. Dodge, taking the officer of the guard, with six men and an interpreter, marched to the "bush" where the Indians were encamped, and took White Crow and five others of the chiefs and braves, and marched them off without ceremony, to a cabin near by, and ordered them to lie down there, and remain until morning; and then laid down with them, at the same time directing the officer of the guard to place a strong party around the cabin, and a double guard around the whole encampment, which required nearly all the men in the command.

The next day, these captive chiefs and a number of young warriors were marched, much against their will, to Morrison's Grove, fifteen miles west of the Blue Mounds; Col. Gratiot, the Indian Agent, was sent for at Gratiot's Grove, and on his arrival the next day, another council was held. Col. Dodge told the Indians, frankly and plainly, what were his suspicions and apprehensions in relation to their treacherous intentions. They stoutly denied any such design; but failed to satisfy Col. Dodge, who retained as hostages for the good faith of the Indians, three of their leading chiefs—Whirling Thunder, the principal war chief, Spotted Arm and Little Priest. These three were conveyed to Gratiot's Grove the next day, and all the other Indians were discharged, and the Hall girls were received and restored to their friends. The three hostages were kept in prison until Posey, Henry, and Alexander arrived with their command, when they were set at liberty.