

more anxious to escape their pursuers than to make war upon them.

General Atkinson being short of provisions, now dispatched Dodge's command of about two hundred and fifty men, together with Henry's and Alexander's brigades, to Fort Winnebago for supplies, and General Posey's brigade was ordered to the mining region for the protection of the forts and settlements in that quarter.

The detachment arrived at the fort on the second day without casualty, and secured the requisite supplies. Colonel Dodge, finding a large number of Winnebagoes at the fort, and the faithful Pauquette, the interpreter, with whom he was well acquainted, and in whom he had the utmost confidence, at once set to work to find out from them the position of the Sauks and Foxes. He soon learned that they were encamped at the rapids of Rock River, since known as Hustisford. To return by this route would require a divergence to the east of more than thirty miles from the route by which they had come. A council of the officers was held. General Alexander objected that the divergence would be a violation of General Atkinson's orders, which required the detachment to return *immediately*. Colonel Dodge insisted that as there was no route specified in the orders, they might return by any route they should deem proper. General Henry concurred in this opinion, and he and Colonel Dodge agreed to return by way of the rapids, while Gen. Alexander was to return with the supplies, by the route they had all come.

The worn down horses were sent home, and the forces thereby reduced, so that the effective men which went to the rapids was about seven hundred, accompanied by Pauquette and twelve Winnebagoes as guides. The command reached its objective point on Rock River on the third day; but no indications of the Indians of whom they were in pursuit were found, except some trails that appeared to be several days old. An express was immediately started to go to General Atkinson, which, after proceeding a few miles down the river, found a fresh trail, evidently bearing towards the Wisconsin River, and immediately returned and reported their discovery. Early the next morning the pursuit of the Sauks and Foxes was commenced on this trail; the express was again sent to General Atkinson, but this time it did not return. The pursuit