

head. This band occupied the territory on the east bank of the Mississippi, principally along the Rock River, and ordinarily numbered about four hundred warriors.

By treaty, duly signed and ratified, the Sauks and Foxes, previous to 1831, conveyed this portion of their country east of the Mississippi to the United States, and our settlers advanced to the shores of Rock River, the Indians so far acknowledging the treaty as to cross the Mississippi, where the majority of them, if not all, took up their residence for a time.

In the spring of 1831, Maj. Gen. Gaines, commanding the Western Department, learned by express that the Indians, in great numbers, had recrossed the river, commenced a system of aggressions on the whites, and by threats, and in some instances of violence, had driven off many families, and bade fair to break up the settlements along the frontier of Illinois. The general promptly moved with such troops as he could find disposable—the Sixth, and a small portion of the Third Infantry—to the scene of difficulty. Here he found the tone of the Indians so high, and their deportment so insufferably insolent, that apprehending the necessity of an immediate resort to blows, he called on the governor of Illinois for an auxiliary force of mounted militia, and made preparations to enforce the demand he had already made of the Indians, to evacuate the ceded territory. After much delay and unusual display of reckless audacity on the part of the Indians,<sup>1</sup> they finally crossed again to the west side of the river, and made and executed a treaty solemnly pledging themselves never to land again on the east bank of the Mississippi without the consent of the President of the United States, and the Governor of Illinois.

Within four months after signing this treaty, a numerous war party of this very band ascended the Mississippi, landed on the east bank, and within the limits of the American vil-

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<sup>1</sup> The Indians came openly armed into council with the general—a proceeding, it is believed, without precedent among them. They used in speech the most violent and threatening language and gestures. Had not the general felt compassion for their infatuation, he would probably have chastised them on the spot.