

mounted, and it is but justice to say they were very efficient cavalry on hardy and generally well-trained horses—they never came into contact with our militia, both mounted, that the Indians did not come off victors, whatever might be their inferiority in numbers.

Under their intention of holding the country, they had brought with them their families and movables of every description.

Gen. Atkinson immediately summoned such of the chiefs of the Sauks and Foxes as had not participated in the movement, at the head of whom was Pashepawko, Wapello and Keokuk; demanded of them such of the murderers as were in their power, and warned them of the consequences which would result on their joining or aiding the invading band. The murderers (three, being all within the control of these chiefs) were promptly surrendered, and the general was assured of the fidelity of the chiefs to the government of the United States. The conference was concluded by an order from the general for the friendly Indians to return to their home, west of the Mississippi, and remain there.

Two messengers, a friendly Sauk chief, the son of Tayemah, and a half-breed whose father was a Frenchman and mother a Sauk woman, were dispatched to the Black Hawk by Gen. Atkinson, not only officially ordering him and his people, in the name of the president, to return, but individually advising him of the consequences of his persisting in his present enterprise. The demand for the surrender of the murderers was also made. Up to this time, it appeared to have been the general belief of the officers of the army, as it certainly was with the writer of this narrative, that the Indians—almost always “more sinned against than sinning”—would under the forbearing, dignified and determined course pursued by the general, be brought to a sense of their conduct and situation, and induced to comply with the demands of the government. But we were soon undeceived; the messengers returned greatly alarmed, after having been abused and insulted, and compelled to escape at the risk of their lives. They brought from the Indians the most insolent and bullying replies to the general’s message,