

rainy, and our tents quite unfit for service, and useless as a shelter.

About the 9th day of May provisions and boats having been collected, a force of nearly eighteen hundred militia arrived, fifteen hundred of whom were mounted, who had been ordered by Gov. Reynolds to report themselves to, and receive orders from the commanding officer of the regular troops. Our force moved up Rock River—the regular troops were then under the immediate command of Col. Taylor, First Infantry, and the mounted militia, under Brig.-Gen. Whiteside. Gov. Reynolds also accompanied his force in person. The mounted men were ordered to proceed to the Prophet's village, about thirty or forty miles by land, and sixty or seventy by water; while the regular force was charged with the severe and unpleasant duty of dragging up the river our provisions and stores in boats, one keel of ninety tons, and one of thirty, and five or six Mackinaw boats. It is unnecessary to describe this duty better than to say, that the weather was cold, and that for many days the troops, so employed, had not a dry thread on them, compelled to wade against a rapid stream, dragging or lifting the boats along from day-break until night. On our arrival at the Prophet's village, it was found that the mounted militia had advanced to Dixon's Ferry. About thirty miles below the last named point, an express informed our command of the defeat of a battalion of the militia under Maj. Stillman, and the troops were hastened forward with all possible dispatch. At Dixon's Ferry, about one hundred and twenty miles from the mouth of Rock River, we learned the particulars of his defeat.

Maj. Stillman, commanding a volunteer battalion of Illinois militia, at his own solicitation, had been dispatched by Gov. Reynolds to endeavor to ascertain the position of the Indians. Deceived by some individuals who assured him that they had reconnoitered the country for forty-five miles above Whiteside's camp, and that there were no Indians within that distance, Stillman encamped an hour before sunset, twenty-five miles from Dixon's, in a well-chosen position, on a stream since called Stillman's Run.