

Very soon after pitching tents, and after unsaddling, some Indians were discovered on the open prairie, a mile or two distant. The camp entirely filled a small open wood, which was on every side surrounded by open and clear prairie slightly undulating. The strongest fortress could hardly have been more effectively defended than the camp in question, where a hundred men ought to have repulsed ten times their number of an attacking force. On the discovery of the Indians, only two or three in number, the militia sallied out, as all agree, in great confusion, some with saddles and some without, and pursued and captured these Indians, when some one called out that three or four others were in sight; on which another pursuit occurred in still greater disorder. The last Indians were overtaken, and, it is said, two of them killed unresistingly and without provocation. Very soon others were discovered advancing. Their numbers appeared, no doubt, much greater than they really were in the dusk of the evening, and a panic seized the whites, *Sauve qui peut* was the word—or rendered into backwood's English, "the devil take the hindmost," and the whole corps fled without firing a well-directed shot. They passed on the run directly through their camp, plunged into the creek, and did not halt until they had arrived at Dixon's Ferry, where they came straggling in for twenty hours. Twelve of the whites and four of the Indians, including those wantonly slain, were killed. It is asserted by the Indians, that the rout was caused by less than one hundred Indians, and the pursuit continued through the night by less than thirty. There were, doubtless, many gallant fellows in Stillman's corps, and it is difficult to account for this, as well as other similar affairs between the whites and Indians, save by attributing it to a want of discipline, and of material confidence in themselves.

It may be well to add the fact, that Stillman's corps had never been for an instant under Gen. Atkinson's orders, they having joined Gov. Reynolds at Dixon's, by a march through the country.

The army immediately advanced up Rock River to Stillman's Run, having left the defeated corps to guard the sick,