

and that evening arrived at Fort Koshkonong; and the next day passed around Lake Koshkonong, and forded Rock River below the lake.

Our marches were forced and severe. One day we marched it is believed, nearly twenty miles, a very hot one, without water. Before the arrival of the army at the Wisconsin, it was met by an express with information that Henry and Dodge had come up with, and attacked the rear of the enemy near the river, and defeated them.

Rafts were forthwith constructed at the Wisconsin, and the army crossed at a small village called Helena, on the 27th of July; and within two hours afterwards we struck the trail of the enemy. Their trail gave evidence that their numbers must be considerable. Their order of march was in three parallel columns. Over the dry prairie, the route of each column was worn from two to six inches in the earth; where the ground was marshy, their trail appeared like ordinary traveled roads, wanting only the tracks of the wheels.

From this time until we reached the Mississippi River, we continued without deviation to follow the trail of the enemy, having no other guide, and led—doubtless with a view of baffling the army—over such a country as, I venture to say, has seldom been marched over—at one moment ascending hills, which appeared almost perpendicular, through the thickest forests; then plunging through morasses; fording to our necks creeks and rivers; passing defiles, where one hundred resolute men might have defeated ten thousand, whatever might be their courage or capacity; next clambering up and down mountains perfectly bald, without so much as a bush to sustain a man. It was in this march that our infantry regained their confidence in their own powers—lacking the power of rapid locomotion to make a dash against an enemy—which had been somewhat impaired early in the campaign. They now far out-marched the horsemen, nearly all of whose horses were broken down.

The Indians were under the impression that it was impossible for us to follow them; and to that error we probably owe our ultimate good fortune in overtaking them, or, at