

least, in bringing them into action on grounds of equality. We, each day, made two of their day's marches, passing one or two of their camps. We frequently passed their dead, who, exhausted by wounds or fatigue, had expired and fallen from their horses.

On the 1st of August, we passed the bodies of eleven, and a little before sunset, learned from a prisoner, that the enemy were but a few miles in advance of us. Up to this time, not a man of the army knew where we were, save that we were north of the Wisconsin, and on the enemy's track. We marched until after dark, hastily encamped, slept two or three hours, when the *reveille* beat, and we were again on the march before daybreak.

On the 2nd of August, at a little after sunrise, we discovered the curtain of mist hanging over the Mississippi, and the scouts in advance, a detachment of Dodge's corps, announced the vicinity of the enemy. We were halted for an instant, our knapsacks and baggage thrown off and our pack-horses left. We then advanced rapidly into the timbered land, and the occasional shots in advance confirmed the reports of the scouts. This firing was from a select rear guard of the enemy, about seventy in number.

Our order of battle was promptly arranged under the personal supervision of Gen. Atkinson, the center composed of the regular troops, about three hundred and eighty in number, and Dodge's corps, perhaps about one hundred and fifty. The right, of the remains of Posey's and Alexander's militia brigades, probably in all two hundred and fifty men; the left, of Henry's brigade, in numbers not far from four hundred men—which brigade was, throughout the campaign, a most excellent body of militia, and well commanded. The army advanced by heads of companies over two or three miles. At length, after descending a bluff, almost perpendicular, we entered a bottom thickly and heavily wooded, with much underbrush and fallen timber, and overgrown with rank weeds and grass, plunged through a bayou of stagnant water, the men as usual holding up their guns and cartridge boxes, and in a few minutes heard the yells of the enemy, closed with them, and the action commenced.