

where we arrived in fine health and spirits on the 9th of August. Indeed, it is astonishing how perfectly healthy the troops had been during much and great exposure to the ordinary causes of sickness. Up to this time not a death from disease had occurred during the campaign among the regular troops. They had borne, without the slightest murmur, their fatigues and privations, and scarcely an occasion for the most trifling punishment had been given, from the time the army took the field. It has never been the fortune of the writer, during a service of twenty years, to witness for a length of time the conduct of any command so perfectly exemplary.

We were soon doomed to experience a sad reverse. About the 20th of August, the troops from Chicago arrived under the command of Col. Eustis, and were encamped about four miles from the command of Gen. Atkinson. Poor fellows! we listened with sincere condolence to the tale of their wretched sufferings from disease; few of us imagining that we should call on them, so soon, to reciprocate our sympathy.

About the 26th of August, a case of cholera exhibited itself; this was followed by several others, and the ravages of this appalling disease then became truly dreadful. The troops were camped in wretched tents in close order of encampment, and for several days of continued cold rain the pestilence raged. Every man could hear the groans and screams of every other individual as often as a case occurred, which added greatly to the horrors of the scene. The brave men who had encountered dangers and hardships in every shape, now met an enemy which made the stoutest heart quail. During a very few days four officers and upwards of fifty rank and file, out of about three hundred infantry, became its victims. The Rangers also encamped near them, suffered severely. It is but rendering justice to Maj.-Gen. Scott to say, that his conduct at Rock Island during this period of horrors was worthy the hero of Chippewa, Niagara, and Fort George—by his example, exciting confidence and courage, fearlessly exposing himself to disease and death in its most terrible form, in his attentions alike to the officer and private soldier; while he enforced with