

themselves by sending their scouts to the head of (Illinois) Fox River, and by placing parties in ambush along the road from Fort Clark to the lead mines. It is true, that many respectable citizens had been cut off by them, as they attempted to pass from Rock River to Galena; while a few others, from having a general knowledge of the country, and being mounted on superior horses, made good their retreat. I remember a case in point, but as I do not intend this as a history of that short but bloody war, I shall for the present pass it—but I may be induced to speak of it hereafter.

The only cause that I can assign for their not having made a charge on Galena, a town not only unprotected, but containing all the munitions of war, is this: Some five years previous, the Winnebagoes, who then owned a part of the mining country, showed a disposition to commence hostilities—in fact, the writer of this saw a keel-boat so completely perforated with rifle and musket balls, that it appeared an interposition of Providence that a man could remain on board without being killed. An officer, whom I shall shortly introduce, notwithstanding the small means of the country, hastily collected a body of mounted men; and without any other guide than the trails, or paths of the enemy, proceeded into the heart of their villages. This bold manœuvre caused them at once to sue for peace, and no doubt, struck terror to the surrounding tribes.

Two days previous to the above date an express arrived at Mineral Point, at 8 o'clock in the evening, bringing the unpleasant intelligence that six men had on that morning proceeded from Fort Hamilton—a small outpost twenty-five miles distant—some six or seven miles through the timber, to the forks of the East and West Peckatonica, for the purpose of ploughing and hoeing a piece of corn. While thus engaged a party of thirty or forty Indians advanced within thirty paces of them, before they were discovered. The devoted little party ran with all possible speed for their rifles, which had been left at a short distance; at the same moment the savages discharged a volley, and raising the war cry, advanced upon them, tomahawk in hand. One alone