

immediately on the route that he had come; another minute brought the horse which the man whom he had met had been riding—his saddle covered with blood, and shot through the ear.

No sooner was this discovered, than a parade was ordered, and obeyed; and that, too, in a manner that would have done honor to a veteran troop. Placing himself at their head, Col. Dodge gave the word "forward!" when each man, putting spur to his horse, set off in a sweeping gallop. On the left of a long field, and the route the Indians were supposed to have taken, stood an almost impenetrable thicket, or undergrowth, from six or seven to twenty-five or thirty feet in height. This, in many places, was thickly interwoven with grape and other vines. Here, aided by the thick growth of weeds, a man could secrete himself at a distance of ten paces.

Marching up the side of this field a sufficient distance to ascertain the fact that they had not gone that route, a halt was ordered. The commander, placing himself in the rear ordered the troops to face to the right, thus placing the rear to the front; and he at their head. He now gave the word "march!" and plunged into the thicket. Eighty rods march brought them to the trail of the Indians who had retreated with all possible speed one mile farther, where they were discovered near a mile in advance. Only three or four of our men were at that time in sight, many of them having been entangled in the thicket for a considerable time. The Indians, no doubt thinking that these were all of the party, halted; it was then ascertained they were fifteen in number.

But their joy was momentary. The men having extricated themselves, came sweeping over the hill at full speed. Again the Sauks commenced a rapid retreat; but they were now in the prairie, and hotly pursued. It happened, however, in the course they took, lay a small stream, but of very rugged banks on each side. This detained the men for a considerable time. In crossing, several got their guns wet, and had to discharge them. Four men being in the rear, discovered that the enemy was filing to the left circling this branch; and by this means, got within eighty yards of them