

before they were discovered. Shots were exchanged on both sides—none of which, however, took effect.

Dodge's main party now rapidly approaching, the enemy once more betook themselves to flight, plunged into the Peckatonica, and swam over. One fourth of a mile above the place where they crossed, stood a grove of about a hundred acres, in which were several small lakes or ponds. To this the Indians betook their way amid a shower of rifle balls; but our men were too far off to shoot with any certainty—still, it was supposed that some of the enemy were wounded. The banks of the river being very high, and the water deep, there was no possibility of crossing it, as a majority of the whites could not swim. They were, therefore, ordered to mount and proceed rapidly up the river half a mile, to a place where a deep ford would permit them to cross. At this point the colonel ordered two men to the right as spies, or rather as guards, that the enemy should not have it in their power to leave the grove undiscovered; he also placed two on the left for the same purpose.

The command now passed the ford, and after proceeding a short distance dismounted, leaving the horses in charge of every seventh man, and advanced on foot to meet the enemy in their close ambush. The guards left with the horses, and the two outposts, had reduced their numbers to sixteen, being one more than the Indians. Their trace was soon discovered, and followed with trailed arms, to the center of the grove. At that place, a small pond of three hundred feet in circumference, with high banks, served at once as an ambush and breastwork for the Sauks. They permitted our men to advance to within thirty yards, some of whom had passed their center, when they opened a well-directed fire, wounding three men mortally, one of whom received two balls. Their names were Black, Wells, and Morris.

The enemy was still invisible. A charge was, therefore, ordered, which brought the opposing parties within ten feet of each other. As our men were mostly armed with rifles, they halted, pouring in at the same time a well-directed volley of balls. This, although it silenced many, did not dis-