

way off, and that their feet were already sore from their long march, after bringing the Hall girls to the Blue Mounds—reminding Col. Dodge at the same time of the great magnanimity displayed on their part in their endeavors and final success in procuring the release or ransom of the two prisoners. To all of which Col. Dodge cordially assented; but remained inflexible to his purpose of marching them to Morrison's Grove, where we arrived about noon, Col. Dodge in the meantime having sent an express messenger to Gratiot's Grove, for Col. Gratiot, who arrived at Morrison's Grove the same night.

Next day the council was held, in the progress of which Col. Dodge frankly told the Winnebago chiefs of our apprehensions of their sympathy and attachment to the cause of Black Hawk; that many of their young men, we were informed, were already in the ranks, and fighting under the banners of the Sauk chief, and unless we could have the most positive assurance on their part of their neutral position in the war between the whites and Black Hawk, that he should be compelled to treat them as enemies; that we had the most undoubted proofs of the instigation and connection of the Winnebagoes with the border murders that had been committed upon our frontier inhabitants—to all of which the White Crow returned a negative answer, except that a few of their young men, whose warlike ardor could not be controlled, might be in the ranks of Black Hawk. But in the main, he said, the Winnebagoes entertained the most friendly and kindly relations toward the whites, and would not under any consideration be induced to take up arms against them in behalf of Black Hawk.

Col. Dodge, however, determined to be upon the safe side, and to secure this end, he stipulated with them that he should retain as hostages for the good faith of their nation, three of their leading chiefs, to which they assented. The chiefs selected for the purpose, were the Whirling Thunder, their principal war-chief, the old Spotted Arm, the most prominent sage and counselor, and the Little Priest, the magician. These three hostages were conveyed to Gratiot's Grove on the next day, and retained in the fort under the