

care of Col. Gratiot, until Generals Posey, Alexander, and Henry arrived with their commands in this country. These forces being considered amply sufficient for the defense of the frontiers even against the Winnebagoes combined with the Sauks and Foxes, the three Winnebago chiefs were set at liberty.

These rigid measures of Col. Dodge have been somewhat criticised by some, little acquainted with the facts, and their propriety seriously questioned; but in my own opinion—and that of most of the inhabitants of this country at that time, they were fully warranted and justified by the circumstances which then existed.

In conversation with Ebenezer Brigham, of the Blue Mounds, some years after these events had transpired, as to their propriety and justification, he fully gave his sanction to them; and said at the same time, that the fears of Capt. Gratiot were well-founded; and that had it not been for the bold and prompt action of Col. Dodge, we might, and perhaps would, have been attacked by the whole force of the Winnebagoes, whom he knew to be then encamped near the Four Lakes, and waiting, as he verily believed, for a favorable opportunity to make a strike in behalf of Black Hawk; but the timely movements of Col. Dodge foiled them.

Of the *personelle* of the Winnebago chiefs who ransomed and brought in the Hall girls, I will give my best recollections. White Crow appeared to be about fifty years of age. He was about five feet, ten inches in stature, straight and erect; and of a mild and pleasant countenance for a savage. He was a fine and fluent speaker, and the spokesman of his band on all important occasions.

Spotted Arm had the appearance of a man of sixty, was about the same size and form of White Crow, except that he was stoop-shouldered and ill-shaped; but possessed a mild and agreeable temperament. He and Little Priest, and another chief were detained by Col. Dodge at Gratiot's Grove as hostages for the good conduct of their people. While kept there, I saw considerable of Spotted Arm. His village was near or just where the village of Exeter now stands. After the Rock Island treaty, in September, 1832, when the