

Winnebagoes relinquished all claim to the lead-mine country, Spotted Arm emigrated with his little band to more congenial hunting grounds, in the new home assigned the Winnebagoes west of the Mississippi. Whirling Thunder and Little Priest appeared to be about thirty-five years of age. I can say but little of either, save that Whirling Thunder was morose and sullen in his appearance, and had the reputation of being cruel. He was short and thick-set, not more than five feet, eight inches in height. Of his subsequent career, I have no knowledge.

Little Priest was a small-sized Indian, of symmetrical form and not very erect. He was about five feet seven inches in height. He had piercing black eyes, and evinced but little inclination to engage in conversation. While sprightly in his actions, his appearance was fierce and uninviting.

The battle of Peckatonica, June 16th, 1832, was perhaps one of the most remarkable contests, for the numbers engaged that was ever fought, in its fierceness and in its desperate and sanguinary character, as well as in its effects and influences upon the savages connected with the war. It is, therefore, desirable to know all the circumstances connected with it, and that led to it. Suffice it to say, that about the first days of May, 1832, the notable war-chief, Black Hawk, who ranked second only to the great Tecumseh, crossed the Mississippi, with his warlike band of about one thousand braves, and invaded the State of Illinois. He marched up the valley of the Rock River, producing the greatest fear and consternation among the inhabitants, causing them to flee in all directions for safety and protection. Black Hawk continued his march up the river until the 14th of May, when he fell upon the unfortunate Maj. Stillman, one of the commandants of the Illinois forces, who had under him, it was said, about three hundred men. These were most disastrously defeated, and put to ignominious flight, and never stopped the run until they reached Dixon, thirty miles distant from the scene of action, where they communicated to Gen. Atkinson the most frightful and exaggerated accounts of the numbers and ferocity of the Indians.

On the 22d day of May, three days after, the families of