

disappointed in his gun not going off. Quick as thought, the Colonel brought his rifle in position, pulled the trigger; but owing to the dampness of the powder, it failed to go off. In the meantime, the brave was coming towards him knife in hand, and desperation in his eyes, and when only a few feet from him, the Colonel shot him down with his revolver."

Gen. Bracken's brief account of the affair is substantially the same—*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, p. 371: "When I got to the pond, I found no enemy before me; and at the same moment I heard the General [Dodge] who was a little to my left, say—there's an Indian, kill him; I turned toward him and heard a shot; and as I came up he said: 'There, by G ——! I've killed him myself.' This was the Indian commander."

I have said that Little Priest was a small Indian, about thirty-five years of age. The apparent Indian commander at the Peckatonica battle was a tall, gallant looking fellow, at least five feet ten inches in height, of commanding mien, and appeared to be about fifty years old. He had much to say, exhorting his men, during the chase preceding the battle, often running backwards, talking to and encouraging them, and haranguing them constantly during the fight. He was the one killed by Col. Dodge.

Lieut. Matthew G. Fitch, who shared in the Peckatonica expedition, and has left us his recollections of the conflict, was a native of Kentucky. He was a nephew of Hon. Wm. J. Graves, of that State, who killed Hon. Jonathan Cilley, of Maine, in a duel, in 1839, while both were members of Congress. Mr. Fitch came to Wisconsin in 1827. He served as Lieutenant in D. M. Parkinson's company on the Black Hawk campaign, sharing in the actions at Wisconsin Heights and Bad Axe, and was a good officer. There are in the cabinet of the Historical Society some of Fitch's personal relics—among them, his powder-horn, with the date 1828 cut on it. He was not in public life after the war. He died at Mineral Point, Iowa County, Wisconsin, about April 13, 1844, in the prime of life, and much regretted. He was under size, some five feet eight inches in stature, weighing perhaps one hundred and forty pounds. He left a widow and four children, who, after his death, went to Texas with Mrs. Fitch's father, George Carroll, a nephew of Charles