

like cruelty, or harshness in his nature. But on the contrary, knew many things which showed his kind and generous nature.

Only one of which I shall relate. It was at an early time in this country, when Gen. Dodge was living with his family in some small cabins, near the present village of Dodgeville. When on a cold November evening, just at night, a small boy with a heavy loaded ox team, was overtaken by a storm near the cabins. In his own language, he could hardly make up his mind whether to go in and ask Gen. Dodge if he could stay all night, or go on and run the risk of freezing. He, however, adopted the former, and went in and asked if he could stay all night. He said Gen. Dodge replied in a kind tone, saying: "My son, you can see that we can scarcely take care of ourselves; but the best we have, you shall be welcome to; we can't turn you out doors." He immediately sent a man to assist him in taking care of his team, and when he came in, Gen. Dodge conversed with him kindly and familiarly, making him, as the boy said, feel quite at home. When he was ready, in the morning, to start, he asked what his bill was, when Gen. Dodge replied in the same kind tone, "not anything, my son; we do not keep people here for money."

I have a remarkable instance of his kind and considerate nature in my own case. When I joined his squadron in the Black Hawk War, I was a mere boy, and quite a stranger to all that were in it. He took me into his own mess, and cared for me, and looked after me with the kindness of a father.

Heroism, however, I always regarded as Gen. Dodge's most prominent trait of character. This was universally accorded to him, by both friend and foe. I never heard any one question, in the least, his claim to heroism. Most any man can be a good citizen, and many men can be wise statesmen, but few men can be heroes. Heroism is a rare qualification, and but few men possess it. The world's history does not furnish us with an account of many heroes.

Gen. Dodge's entire military course partakes largely of the heroic character. There is a heroic tinge about all his mil-