

unshackled; several other Indians were also prisoners with him, one of whom was Waupella.¹ Black Hawk had an interpreter present, a Frenchman, so we could converse. He said he was glad to meet with one who could comprehend his grievances, and spoke of the misfortune that resulted from the misapprehension on the part of the white people of the object he had in view. That he had long been in the habit of visiting the British post at Malden, generally yearly, and received with his people liberal presents. That early in 1832, thinking it was a tedious undertaking, to make that long journey so frequently, and that the whites were then over-running and gaining possession by pretended treaties, of all their fine country, and but little game remaining, he started for Canada, with such of his people as might choose to follow him, with the design of remaining there;² that he had been forewarned by Keokuck and other chiefs, that in going in the direct route he proposed through the settled portions of the country, he and his party would be regarded by the inhabitants as making a hostile movement; but that he, Black Hawk, thought it better that his people should keep embodied rather than get scattered. That after they had progressed a few days in upper Illinois, he found he was pursued by the whites. He said he was still in hopes, if he could have an opportunity, to be able to explain satisfactorily the reason of the embodied movement of his people, but, he said, he had been grievously disappointed in the hope of a peaceful retirement to Canada. He was set upon by armed men,³ which he supposed was only the advance detachment, and now concluded that war was inevitable.

Black Hawk related, that he then said to his young men,

¹ Waupella, or "He-Who-is-Painted White," a Fox chief, was signer of the treaties of 1822, 1830, 1832 and 1836. L. C. D.

² This story of Black Hawk's design of retiring to Canada, as related to Col. Shaw, in September, 1832, is singularly at variance with the reasons and purposes of his movements as dictated in his autobiography the following year, and appears not susceptible of reconciliation.

L. C. D.

³ Col. Stillman's pursuit.

L. C. D.