

that inasmuch as the whites had commenced making war upon them, they should make the best defense they could. He expressed his surprise that the Americans could, in so brief a period, have assembled so large a force, and still more surprised to find some Indians among them. That he and his party endured great fatigue and suffering in their march, with their women, children and baggage, and discovering that the whites and their Indian associates were steadily gaining on him, he sought an opportunity of speaking with the Indians who were accompanying the Americans; but finding none, he went back some distance, the night after the battle of Wisconsin Heights, and ascended a tree, as near the American encampment as he thought it prudent to venture, and spoke in as loud a voice as he possibly could, desiring the American Indians to inform the whites that he was not for war; that he was only endeavoring to leave the country, and hoped he would be permitted to do so in peace.

But he said, he knew by the renewed pursuit of the whites the next morning, that further conflict was inevitable, and he felt convinced, that in the then enfeebled condition of his people, he had nothing favorable to hope for in the result. He now changed his route, and directed his course towards the Mississippi; and to facilitate the more rapid movements of himself and people, they were compelled to throw away all their heavy and most cumbersome articles. The whites also increased their speed, and he and his jaded followers were overtaken at the Bad Axe River—an indiscriminate massacre took place—many were killed and drowned; and Black Hawk and his people believing that no quarter would be shown them, escaped as best they could, and dispersed. As he spoke of the slaughter of his people at the Bad Axe, in their helpless and forlorn condition, tears coursed down his aged cheeks. The old chief added, that he was soon captured and put in irons; but finding that he would not attempt to escape, the irons were taken off; but he did not know what the Americans would do with him. This is substantially the story Black Hawk related to me. I never saw him afterwards. In conversation with him at