

Causes of the Black Hawk War

The following extracts are taken from the *Kentucky Commonwealth*, of May 28th, 1833, edited by the late Hon. Orlando Brown, personally known to the writer of this note as an able, conscientious man, who was secretary of state of Kentucky under Gov. J. J. Crittenden, and commissioner of Indian affairs under President Taylor. L. C. D.

"We have heretofore alleged the existence of a rumor that a son of Black Hawk had been taken prisoner, and had received five hundred lashes, and that this was the last in a series of outrages that had induced his father to take up arms. Our authority for asserting that such a rumor existed is of the most respectable kind; nay more, we had the information from two gentlemen, one of whom ascended the Ohio River with the Indian chiefs and got his information from them—the other gentleman resides near the disputed territory, and served in the campaign against Black Hawk. The latter gentleman said that it was believed that the young Indian was treated in the unmerciful manner as described in our article upon that subject. With both of these gentlemen the editor of the *Globe*—who discredits this rumor—has a personal acquaintance, and if their names were mentioned, he would blush to think how recklessly he had doubted an assertion which could be so authoritatively sustained. The article in the *Globe* is one of singular construction; and, in its zeal to correct an error, admits a fact, if possible, more discreditable than that from which it is endeavoring to escape. After arguing—that as Black Hawk said nothing about the flogging of his son when he had his talk with the president, that therefore he was not flogged—he proceeds to state, that Black Hawk himself declared that "he crossed the river to raise provisions where he thought he had a right to raise them," and that this was the cause of the war. Well, if his silence is conclusive