

seventy poor unfortunate women and children of the Sac and Fox nations, who had crossed the Mississippi River above Prairie du Chien, and were traveling on their own land towards the Wabesepinnecon River—where some five or six hunters had gone forth to furnish some meat for the half starved and half dead women and children? Those unfortunate women and children were getting out of the way of danger, when the Sioux bands were let loose, and every soul perished by their tomahawks and scalping knives! The murder of these unfortunate women and children ought to be enquired into by the proper authorities, that is to say, by the superintendent of Indian affairs, and reported by him to the government; and let those who advised the Sioux Indians to commit those cruelties, be punished. Well may the Indian say, there is no dependence in any white man; and in all probability the day may come when some innocent white person may suffer for those atrocities.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In Capt. Henry Smith's "Indian Campaigns of 1832," in this volume, reference is made to this sad event; and, it would seem from his statement, that the party of one hundred Sioux had "leave" to pursue the fugitives—from Gen. Atkinson, doubtless, as the commander in authority—and after two days' pursuit they overtook and killed fifty or sixty—"mostly," adds Capt. Smith, "it is feared, women and children." It can hardly be supposed that Gen. Atkinson contemplated such a slaughter of helpless non-combatants. Bracken, p. 414, vol. ii, *Wis. Hist. Collections*, states that Gen. Atkinson ordered this pursuit by Wabashaw's party of Sioux warriors, and that they nearly exterminated the half-starved and helpless fugitives—their hereditary foes. Hon. Peter Parkinson, in the present volume, confirms Bracken's recollections. In Wakefield's work on the Black Hawk War, it is stated that before Gen. Atkinson left the Bad Axe battle-ground, "he provisioned a number of Sioux and some Winnebagoes, and sent them in search of Black Hawk, to see if they could not capture him, and bring him in a prisoner"—p. 91.

Black Hawk in his narrative, refers to these unfortunate women and children, who after they had gotten safely across the Mississippi, were overtaken and slain by the Sioux. "The whites," says the old chief, sorrowfully, "ought not to have permitted such conduct—none but cowards would ever have been guilty of such cruelty, which has always been practiced on our nation by the Sioux."

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