

appointed place. It was a large flat prairie forming a semicircle, surrounded by steep bluffs, and a fine view up the river, opening out for more than a mile. Everybody left the boat and came ashore. The officers and the soldiers scattered in different groups, the arms were stacked, and the steam suffered to go entirely out. The assembly had been lounging and waiting for some two hours, when a most singular and majestic spectacle offered itself to view. Suddenly Rock River appeared covered with Indian warriors: sixty canoes, three abreast, each containing ten men, all armed, singing their war song. While officers and men were looking at the picturesque display, and the warriors disembarking, and forming under their respective leaders, orders were given and drums beat to arms; but the officers were astonished to perceive that while their attention had been directed toward the river, three hundred warriors on horseback, appearing as by magic from some passes in the bluffs, were completely surrounding them. Had the Indians entertained any treacherous design, the whole Federal party could have been made prisoners, for they were entirely off their guard, and the Indians three times their number; but they did not perceive their advantage, or did not mean any hostility. It was only for an instant—the men under arms, the band playing, the steam raising—things took a dignified and military aspect. But the manœvering of the Indians was beautiful, and for a moment Black Hawk out-generaled Gen. Gaines.

Henry Gratiot was sent on a new mission, to release two young girls taken prisoners by the Sauks and Foxes, whose agent, Mr. Felix St. Vrain, had been murdered, and the undertaking was one of great danger. He was taken prisoner by the Indians, and we felt the greatest anxiety on his account. Two Winnebago chiefs undertook to negotiate for his release. They met with much opposition. They offered a large ransom for him and the girls. After two days' deliberation, he was liberated at midnight, with the two girls, and silently conducted to a canoe and paddled with great speed by the two friendly chiefs until daylight. It was all owing to his high standing with these savages that his ef-