

Gratiot proceeded down Rock River; and, on the 19th, arrived at the Turtle Village of the Winnebagoes—found them at the exercise of their religious ceremonies, and consequently could not have a hearing till the 22d. He then held a talk with them, and learned from them that the Sacs had, at three different times, sent them the wampum, and that the last was painted red—thereby indicating war. The last wampum was not returned. They also informed Mr. Gratiot, that it was their determination not to join the hostile Sacs; that there were some Winnebagoes living at the Prophet's village who were friendly to the whites; and that they requested them to leave it, and come to their village to reside until all the difficulties were settled.

"In order to accomplish this object, Mr. Gratiot took twenty-four men of the Turtle Village to accompany him to the Prophet's Town, at which place they arrived on the 25th, and hoisted his flag of truce.

"He was received with much attention by the Winnebagoes, who made him a large lodge, eighty feet long, for himself and their visiting brethren. In this village he found between two and three hundred men, women and children, belonging to the Prophet's band. These Indians manifested no hostile disposition, but severally remonstrated against the conduct of the Prophet, who was at that time with the hostile band of Sacs, a few miles below, leading them on to his village. Mr. Gratiot advised these Indians to go up Rock River on their own lands and make a village, where they might rest in peace. This they promised to do.

"On the 26th, Mr. Gratiot saw at a distance, about two miles down Rock River the army of the celebrated Black Hawk, consisting of about five hundred Sacs, well armed and mounted on fine horses, moving in a line of battle. Their appearance was terrible in the extreme. Their bodies were painted with white clay, with an occasional impression of their hands about their bodies, colored black. Around their ankles and bodies they wore wreaths of straw, which always indicated a disposition for blood. They moved on with great regularity, performing many evolutions; wheeling every few minutes, and firing towards Fort Armstrong; turning, flanking, and then forming into solid columns, from which they would form their line of march. In that way they marched to the beating of a drum till they came to the village.

"They marched up to Gratiot's lodge, where was flying the neutral flag, formed a circle around it; took down his flag, and tauntingly hoisted the British colors in its place. They then fired into the air toward his lodge, sounded the war-whoop around it, and made several motions toward attacking Mr. Gratiot and the friendly Winnebagoes. They afterwards dismounted, entered his lodge, shook hands with Mr. Gratiot and Mr. Cubbage, a gentleman who accompanied him. They then formed a circle within his lodge, holding their spears and other implements of war, and evincing, by their actions and countenances, an unfriendly feeling. After holding a consultation among themselves, a friendly Winnebago chief,