

I have very minutely enquired into all the causes connected with the late disturbances with the Winnebago Indians.¹ Hastily I will sketch them to you that you may compare them with your accounts and judge between them. I place great reliance upon my information as it comes from different sources, and fits nicely together. Should you have any varient opinions you would highly gratify me by communicating them. I took occasion in my communication to give that weight that is evidently due to the prompt measures you took in relation to the militia. The Winnebagoes and the whites all admit that they apprehended more from the militia ordered to be drafted than all the regulars. They had set down the draft of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the militia of Illinois, as an immense number of *Mounted Riflemen*. They remembered the *Rangers of Governor Edwards*, and that was the force they most dreaded.

The Indians had been soured by the conduct of the vast number of adventurers flocking to and working the lead mines of Fever River. Those who went by land, by far the greater part, passed through the Winnebago country. Many of them had great contempt for "*naked Indians*," and behaved low, gross, and like blackguards amongst them. The Agent at the mines² granted permits on the Winnebago lands, and numerous diggings were industriously pushed far east of the line between the Ottawas, Chippewas and Pottawatomies of the Illinois, and the Winnebagoes, and great quantities of mineral procured and taken away to the smelters. I should first have called your attention to your treaty of the 24 Aug., 1816, and the treaty of 19 Aug., 1825,³ which together establish the line between the Ottawas, &c., and the Winnebagoes. Take the treaty of 24 Aug., 1816, and lay a map of the country before you, and delineate the

¹ The Winnebago war, or "Red Bird disturbance," described at length in preceding volumes of *Wis. Hist. Colls.*—ED.

² The superintendent of the United States lead mines was Lieut. Martin Thomas, who lived at St. Louis. His resident sub-agent, at this time, was Thomas McKnight, who lived at Galena.—ED.

³ The treaty of 1816 was held at St. Louis, that of 1825 at Prairie du Chien.—ED.