

time that the declaration of war became known. Twenty-two of their number defeated Major Denny's force at the River Canard, and the entire band took a distinguished part in all subsequent engagements.

Dickson with one hundred and thirty warriors, Sioux, Winnebagoes, and Menomonees, reached Mackinac about the first of July. There were very few Canadians there then. On the ninth, an express arrived from General Brock announcing the declaration of war and advising an immediate attack on Mackinac. Captain Roberts instantly made a requisition on the agents of the Northwest Company, and nine days later a numerous party of their servants arrived from Fort William. In the meantime several of the principal Ottawa chiefs came in with their warriors, but when they were requested to co-operate they seemed very lukewarm and indifferent. On the other hand, Dickson's Indians were eager for the attack. Amable Chevalier, an Ottawa chief from the Lake of the Two Mountains, who had come to the upper country for the purpose of hunting, exerted all his influence among his tribesmen and finally persuaded them to accompany the expedition, although he secretly informed the British officers that he was still doubtful of their fidelity.

But it was undoubtedly to the assistance rendered by Dickson's band of Indians that the easy reduction of Mackinac was due, as the decided stand they took determined the course of the other tribes. The board of inquiry appointed to report upon his claims for compensation observed that "his influence over them was conspicuous and excited surprise, especially in restraining them from outrages and preventing any conflict between them, some nations being hereditary enemies."

Driven to an extremity by want, the Sacs applied to the commandant at Fort Madison for supplies upon credit, and being refused they followed on Dickson's path. He met them at Green Bay, loaded with the spoils of Mackinac. He selected Black Hawk as leader of the warriors of the allied nations. Placing a medal about his neck and giving