

"scrub" horses or yokes of cattle, and some barnyard stock. They were, for the most part, in the prime of life, enterprising, bold, daring, skilled marksmen, and accustomed to exposure, privations and danger. There were no schools, and the only religious instruction received by these rude pioneers was that given by adventurous missionaries who penetrated these wildernesses with the self-sacrificing energies of the fathers of the church, making up in zeal what they lacked in culture.

But upon the heels of these worthies had come thieves, counterfeiters, cut-throats, social outlaws from the east. By nature aggressive, they too often gave to the community a character of wild and lawless adventure. Such men are always upon the frontiers of civilization, and the Indians, from being more frequently brought into collision with these than with the more conservative majority, are apt naturally to form an opinion of our race that is far from flattering.¹

Conditions in Illinois were ripe for an Indian war. Many elements in the white population saw benefits to be derived from it. It would give occupation to the small but noisy class of pioneer loafers, and cause government money to circulate freely; to the numerous and respectable body of Indian-haters — persons who had at some time suffered in person or property from the red savages, and had come to regard them as little better than wild beasts — it offered a chance for reprisal; to the political aspirant, a brilliant foray presented opportunities for the achievement of personal popularity, and indeed the Black Hawk War was long the chief stock in trade of many a subsequent statesman; while to persons fond of mere adventure, always a large element on the border, it presented superior attractions.

On the sixth of April, 1832, Black Hawk and Neapope, with about five hundred warriors (chiefly Sacs), their squaws and children, and all their belongings, crossed the Missis-

¹ Nicolay and Hay, in their *Abraham Lincoln—A History*, i., chaps. ii. and iii., give a graphic picture of pioneer life in Illinois in 1830; but their account of the Black Hawk War, *Ibid.*, chap. v., unfortunately contains numerous errors.