

From his easy and unexpected victory, Black Hawk conceived a poor opinion of the valor of the militiamen, and at the same time a somewhat exaggerated estimate of the prowess of his own braves. Almost wholly destitute of provisions and ammunition, he felt highly elated at the capture of Stillman's rich stores. Recognizing that war had been forced upon him¹ and was henceforth inevitable, he dispatched scouts to watch the white army while he hurriedly removed his women and children, by the way of the Kishwaukee, to the swampy fastnesses of Lake Koshkong, near the headwaters of Rock river, in Michigan Territory (now Wisconsin). He was guided thither by friendly Winnebagoes, who deemed the position impregnable. From here, recruited by parties of Winnebagoes and Pottawattomies, Black Hawk descended into northern Illinois, prepared for active border warfare.

The story of Stillman's defeat inaugurated a reign of terror between the Illinois and Wisconsin rivers, and great consternation throughout the entire west. The name of Black Hawk, whose forces and the nature of whose expedition were greatly exaggerated, became coupled the country over with stories of savage cunning and cruelty, his name serving as a household bugaboo. Shaubena and his friends again rode post-haste through the settlements,

¹ "I had resolved upon giving up the war, and sent a flag of peace to the American war chief, expecting as a matter of right, reason and justice that our flag would be respected, (I have always seen it so in war among the whites), and a council convened, that we might explain our grievances having been driven from our village the year before, without permission to gather the corn and provisions, which our women had labored hard to cultivate, and ask permission to return,—thereby giving up all idea of going to war against the whites. Yet, instead of this honorable course which I have always practiced in war, I was forced into war, with about five hundred warriors, to contend against three or four thousand.

"The supplies that Neapope and the prophet told us about, and the reinforcements we were to have, were never more heard of, and it is but justice to our British father to say, were never promised—his chief having sent word in lieu of the lies that were brought to me, 'for us to remain at peace, as we could accomplish nothing but our own ruin, by going to war.'—*Autobiography*, pp. 123, 124.