

fifty volunteers to White Crow's Winnebago village at the head of Fourth lake, on a point of land now known as Fox's bluff, some four miles northwest of the site of Madison. The Winnebagoes were always deemed a source of danger to the mining settlements, and it was desirable to keep them quiet during the present crisis. Colonel Dodge held council with them on the twenty-fifth of May, and received profuse assurances of their fidelity to the American cause, but the partisan leader appears to have justly placed small reliance upon their sincerity.<sup>1</sup>

Returning from this council, Dodge set out from his headquarters at Fort Union on an active campaign with two hundred mounted rangers enlisted for the war. These men, gathered from the mines and fields, were a free-and-easy set of dare-devils, imbued with the spirit of adventure and an intense hatred of the Indian race. While well disciplined to the extent of always obeying orders when sent into the teeth of danger, they swung through the country with little regard to the rules of the manual, and presented a striking contrast to the habits and appearance of the regulars.

On the third of June they arrived at Blue Mounds, just in time to receive the Hall girls brought in by White Crow. The Crow and his companions being offensive in their demeanor, Dodge had them thrown into the guard-house and held for a time as hostages for the good behavior of the rest of the Fourth-lake band. On the eleventh, he was joined by a small party of Illinois rangers from Galena, under Captain J. W. Stephenson, and the united force proceeded to General Atkinson's recruiting quarters, then at Ottawa, where Dodge conferred with the general as to the

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<sup>1</sup> Dodge's "talk" is given in Smith's *History of Wisconsin*, i., pp. 416, 417. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, ii., p. 339, for White Crow's taunt flung at Dodge, that the whites were "a soft-shelled breed," and could not fight. For sketch of this chief — whose Indian name was *Kaukishkaka* (The Blind), he having lost an eye in a brawl — see *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, x., pp. 495, 496. Washburne's estimate of him, *Ibid.*, p. 253, is unfavorable; others of his white contemporaries speak with enthusiasm of his strength as a native orator, and his manly bearing.