

ilton to guard the mining country, which Dodge's absence had left exposed to the enemy. Atkinson himself fell back to Lake Koshkonong, and built a fort a few miles up the Bark river, on the eastern limit of the present village of Fort Atkinson.

On arrival at Fort Winnebago, the troopers found a number of Winnebago Indians there, all of them full of advice to the white chiefs. There was also at the fort a famous half-breed scout and trader named Pierre Paquette, long in the trusted employ of the American Fur Company. He informed Henry and Dodge of the true location of Black Hawk's stronghold, as White Crow had done, with added information as to its character, and, with twelve Winnebago assistants, was engaged as pilot thither.

While the division was at the fort, there was a stampede of horses from some unknown cause, the animals plunging madly for thirty miles through the neighboring swamps, where upwards of fifty were lost.¹

Henry and Dodge at once resolved to return to camp by way of the Hustisford rapids, and there engage Black Hawk if possible. But Alexander's men refused to enter upon this perilous expedition, and insisted on obeying Atkinson's orders to return to headquarters by the shortest available route. Alexander easily yielded to his troopers' demands, and the mutinous example would have been successfully imitated in Henry's brigade but for the firmness of that commander, who was a strict disciplinarian. Alexander returned direct to camp, July fifteenth, with the men whose horses had been lost in the stampede, and twelve days' provisions for the main army. The same day, Henry and Dodge, the former in command, started out with twelve days' supplies for their own force, accompanied by Paquette and the Winnebago guides. The ranks had been depleted from many causes, so that roll-call on the sixteenth disclosed but six hundred effective men in Henry's brigade, and about a hundred and fifty in Dodge's squadron.

On the eighteenth, the troopers reached Rock river and

¹ Reynolds's *My Own Times*, pp. 254, 255; also *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, x., p. 314.