

the present state university grounds, across intervening swamps and hills to the Pheasant branch, and thence due northwest to the Wisconsin river. The advance was so rapid that forty horses gave out during the day, between the Catfish and the Wisconsin. When his animal succumbed, the trooper would trudge on afoot, throwing away his camp-kettle and other encumbrances, thus following the example of the fugitives ahead of him, the trail being lined with Indian mats, kettles, and camp equipage discarded in the hurry of flight. Some half-dozen inoffensive Sac stragglers — chiefly old men who had become exhausted by the famine' now prevailing in the Hawk's camp — were shot at intervals and scalped by the whites, — two of them within the present limits of Madison. It was three o'clock in the afternoon before the enemy's rear guard of twenty braves under Neapope was overtaken. Several skirmishes ensued. The timber was still thick, and it was impossible at first to know whether Neapope's party were the main body of the Indians or not. The knowledge of their weakness became apparent after a time, and thereafter when the savages made a feint the spies would charge and easily disperse them.

At about half past four o'clock, when within a mile and a half of the river, and some twenty-five miles northwest of the site of Madison, Neapope's band, reinforced by a score of braves under Black Hawk, made a bold stand to cover the flight of the main body of his people down the bluffs and across the stream. Every fourth man of the white column was detailed to hold the horses, while the rest of the troopers advanced on foot. The savages made a heavy charge, yelling like madmen, and endeavored to flank the whites,

¹“During our encampment at Four Lakes, we were hard put, to obtain enough to eat to support nature. Stuck in a swampy, marshy country (which had been selected in consequence of the great difficulty required to gain access thereto), there was but little game of any sort to be found — and fish were equally scarce * * * We were forced to dig roots and bark trees, to obtain something to satisfy our hunger and keep us alive. Several of our old people became so much reduced, as actually to die with hunger.”— *Autobiography*, p. 130.