

Those of the Sacs who safely regained the west bank were soon set upon by a party of one hundred Sioux, under Wabasha, sent out for that purpose by General Atkinson, and one-half of these helpless, half-starved non-combatants were cruelly slaughtered, while many others died of exhaustion and wounds before they reached those of their friends who had been wise enough to abide by Keokuk's peaceful admonitions and stay at home. Thus, out of the band of nearly one thousand persons who crossed the Mississippi at the Yellow Banks, in April, not more than one hundred and fifty, all told, lived to tell the tragic story of the Black Hawk War—a tale fraught with dishonor to the American name.

The rest can soon be told. On the seventh of August, when the army had returned to Prairie du Chien, General Winfield Scott arrived and assumed command, discharging the volunteers the following day. Cholera among his troops had detained him first at Detroit, then at Chicago, and lastly at Rock Island, nearly one-fourth of his force of one thousand regulars having died with the pestilence. Independent of this, the American loss in the war, including volunteers and settlers killed in the irregular skirmishes and in massacres, was not over two hundred and fifty. The financial cost to the nation and to the state of Illinois aggregated nearly two millions of dollars.

On the twenty-seventh of August, Chætar and One-eyed Decorah, two Winnebago braves who were desirous of displaying their newly-inspired loyalty to the Americans, delivered Black Hawk and the Prophet into the hands of Agent Street, at Prairie du Chien. They had found the conspirators at the Wisconsin river dells, above the site of Kilbourn City.¹

On the twenty-first of September, a treaty of peace was signed at Fort Armstrong; and Black Hawk, the Prophet,

¹See McBride's "Capture of Black Hawk," in *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, v., pp. 293, 294; *Id.*, viii., p. 316, *note*; *Wakefield*, pp. 95-101. There have been many traditions of the capture, differing from the above, but there is no documentary evidence to substantiate them. The standard account, which I follow, is based upon Street's official report.