

instead, ruthlessly butchered; while the sending out of the Sioux upon the trail of the few worn-out fugitives, in the very country beyond the great river which they had been persistently ordered to occupy, capped the climax of a bloody and costly contest, characterized on our part by heartlessness, bad faith, and gross mismanagement.

It is generally stated in the published histories of those commonwealths, that the defeat of Black Hawk opened to settlement northern Illinois and the southern portion of what is now Wisconsin. Unqualified, this statement is misleading. Doubtless the war proved a powerful agent in the original development of this section, but the end was accomplished indirectly. As we have seen, the British band was in itself no obstacle to legitimate settlement, the frontiers of which were far removed from Black Hawk's village, and need not have crowded it for some years to come. Although the natural outgrowth of the excitable condition of affairs on the border, the war was not essential as a means of clearing the path of civilization. What it did accomplish in the way of territorial development, was to call national attention, in a marked manner, to the attractions and resources of an important section of the Northwest. The troops acted as explorers of a large tract of which nothing had hitherto been definitely known among white men. The Sacs themselves were, previous to their invasion, unacquainted with the Rock river valley above the mouth of the Kishwaukee, and had but vague notions of its swamps and lakes, gathered from their Winnebago guides, who alone were fairly well informed on the subject. From Wisconsin Heights to the Bad Axe, every foot of the trackless way was as unknown to the Sacs and their pursuers as the interior of Africa was to Stanley when he first groped his way across the Dark Continent. During and immediately following the war, the newspapers of the eastern states were filled with descriptions, more or less florid, of the scenic charms of, and the possibilities for, extractive industries in the Rock river valley, the groves and prairies on every hand, the park-like region of the Four lakes, the Wisconsin-river highlands, and the picturesque mountains and almost