

EXTRACTS FROM MARSH'S JOURNAL, DURING THE BLACK
HAWK WAR.¹

Sab. [June] 17th. Rainy and cold. Mind completely distracted in consequence of reports of Indn. hostilities. Heard that the Sacs, Foxes some Pottawottamies and Winnebagoes were about 70 miles fr[om] Ft. Winnebago. Found it difficult & almost impossible to keep my mind off fr[om] t[he] subject. Still found some relief in prayer to God.

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Tues. 19th. Weather very pleasant. In t[he] A. M. attempted to study but could accomplish but little, mind being constantly filled with distressing apprehensions of Indn. aggressions. Still feel it is wrong to distrust the goodness & mercy of God, for he can preserve me and my people & station altho' a host sh[oul]d rise up against us. At times I find relief in prayer and can trust all with God & then ere I am aware my mind is in the very midst of the enemy or I am planning some means of defense or destruction to the foe in case of an attack, and seem almost to see & hear their approach & savage yell — or feel t[he] poisoned arrow & tomahawk — But again I recall my wandering thoughts and strive to fix them on my subject & God, but these subjects alas! seem like strangers or unwelcome guests after such vagaries of the mind.

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Thurs. 21. Visited some and returned at dusk, & it was reported that t[he] Sacs &c were about 70 m. fr[om] t[he] Portage and coming this way; all was immediately alarm & confusion. Mr & Mrs. S[tevens] passed t[he] night with us, but there was little sleep in t[he] M[ission] house during t[he] n[ight]. I felt at first somewhat alarmed, & disconcerted, but was enabled I trust to find relief in prayer; and that in some measure I could say t[he] L[ord] of Hosts is with us t[he] G[od] of Jacob is our refuge — And that I

¹ The settlers in the valley of the Lower Fox feared that Black Hawk, now being pursued by the white troops under Gen. Henry Atkinson, would attempt to escape towards the northeast, and thus involve this region in the broil.—Ed.