

of the 6th, when you left McKreisick's farm, until 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 9th, when you arrived from Keetsville in the common encampment, you marched fifty miles, fought three battles, took not only a battery and a flag from the enemy, but more than a hundred and fifty prisoners—among them acting Brigadier-General Hebert, the commander of the Louisiana forces, and his Major; Col. Mitchell, of the 14th Arkansas; Col. Stone, Adjutant-General of Price's forces; and Lient. Col. John H. Price, whose life was twice spared, and who has now, for the second time, violated his parole, and was arrested with arms in his hands.

You have done your duty, and you can justly claim your share in the common glory of this victory. But let us not be partial, unjust or haughty. Let us not forget that *alone* we were too weak to perform the great work before us. Let us acknowledge the great services done by all the brave soldiers of the third and fourth divisions, and always keep in mind that "united, we stand; divided, we fall." Let us hold out and push the work through, not by mere words and great clamor, but by good marches, by hardships and fatigues, by strict discipline and effective battles.

Columbus has fallen, Memphis will follow, and if you do in future as you have done in these past days of trial, the time will soon come when you will pitch your tents on the beautiful shores of the Arkansas river, and there meet our iron-clad propellers at Little Rock and Fort Smith. Therefore keep alert, my friends, and look forward with confidence.

F. SIGEL,

Brig. Gen. Comd'g 1st and 2d Divisions.

The successful movements of the army of the South-West, and the recent great victory, had attracted public attention to the commanders. The President had nominated Curtis and Sigel to be Major-Generals of Volunteers. On the 21st of March the nominations were confirmed by the Senate of the United States. Osterhaus, Davis, Carr, Benton, Dodge and Vandever were also, about the same time, or soon after, made Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

BY CHARLES NEGUS.

(Continued from page 92.)

BLACK HAWK.

Black Hawk was a Sac by birth, and was born at their village on Rock River, in 1767. His father's name was Pyesa, and held the office among his people of carrying the medicine bag. At the early age of fifteen, he distinguished

himself by wounding an enemy, and was put in the rank of the braves. In a war which his nation had with the Osages, he gathered a party of seven men and attacked a party of over a hundred of the enemy, killed one of them, and retreated without any injury. From this exploit his valor was such, though not yet twenty years old, that he raised a party of one hundred and eighty braves and marched against the Osage village, on the Missouri; but finding it deserted, most of his party, being disappointed, left him and returned home; but he, with five of his men, followed their trail, and after several days' pursuit took the scalps of a man and a boy, and made a safe retreat.

In 1786, Black Hawk, with two hundred braves, again set off to avenge the repeated outrages of the Osages upon his nation. He met with a number of the enemy equal to his own, and a fierce battle ensued. The Osages lost nearly a hundred men, while there were only thirteen of his party killed. In this battle Black Hawk claimed to have killed five of the enemy with his own hand.

This battle stopped for awhile the intrusions of the Osages, and Black Hawk turned his attention to redressing the wrongs which the Cherokees had committed in killing some of their women and children. He met the Cherokees below St. Louis, on the Merrimack River, who in number had the largest force; but Black Hawk attacked them and compelled them to retreat with a loss of twenty-eight men. The Sacs only lost seven, but among this number was Pyesa, Black Hawk's father. Owing to this misfortune, for several years he ceased from all warlike operations, and spent his time in hunting and fishing.

In 1800 he made another excursion against the Osages, at the head of about five hundred men selected from the Sac, Fox and Iowa bands. In this attack he destroyed about forty lodges and killed many of the warriors of the enemy, five of whom were slain by himself. In 1802 he terminated a war which had been carried on against the Chippewas, Kaskaskias and Osages, during which six or seven battles were fought, and more than one hundred of the enemy slain.

Black Hawk had been in the habit of making frequent visits to St. Louis to see the Spanish Governor, by whom he had been kindly received. In 1804 he made one of his accustomed visits, and represented that he found many sad and glooms faces there because the United States were about to take possession of the town and country. He says: "Soon after the Americans came I took my band and went to take leave of our father. The Americans came to see him also. Seeing them approach, we passed out at one door as they entered at another, and immediately started in our canoes for our village on Rock River, not liking the change any more than our friends appeared to at St. Louis. On arriving at our village we gave the news that strange people had arrived at St. Louis, and that we should never see our Spanish father again. This information made all of our people sorry."

From his own account, it would seem that Black Hawk was not pleased with the Americans taking possession of the country, and was inclined to look upon them with distrust before the nation, by their chiefs, held the treaty of 1804; and he always contended that his people were wronged by the Americans in this treaty. Black Hawk claimed that the chiefs who were sent to St. Louis to have a talk with their great father, Gen. Harrison, were not authorized to sell lands; that they were sent for the purpose of trying to get one of their people released who was confined in the prison at St. Louis for killing a white man.

It seems that the treaty was held with five chiefs, an unusual small number to represent a nation on a subject of as much importance as the large amount of land ceded to the United States on that occasion. Black Hawk gives the following account of the transaction:

"The party started with the good wishes of the whole nation, hoping they would accomplish the object of their mission. The relations of the prisoner blacked their faces and fasted, hoping the Great Spirit would take pity on them and return the husband and father to his wife and children. Quash-quame and party remained a long time absent.

They at length returned and encamped a short distance below the village, but did not come up that day, nor did any person approach their camp. They appeared to be dressed in coats, and had medals. From these circumstances we were in hopes they had brought us good news. Early the next morning the council lodge was crowded. Quash-qua-me and party came up, and gave us the following account of their mission :

“On their arrival at St. Louis they met their American father and explained to him their business, and urged the release of their friend. The American chief told them he wanted land, and they agreed to give him some on the west side of the Mississippi River and some on the Illinois side, opposite the Jeffreon. When the business was all arranged, they expected to have their friend released to come home with them ; but about the time they were ready to start, their friend was let out of prison, who ran a short distance and was shot dead.’

“This was all they could recollect of what was said or done. They had been drunk the greater portion of the time they were in St. Louis. This is all myself or nation knew of the treaty of 1804. It has been explained to me since. I find by that treaty all our country east of the Mississippi and south of the Jeffreon was ceded to the United States for one thousand dollars a year. I will leave it to the people of the United States to say whether our nation was properly represented in this treaty, or whether we received a fair consideration for the extent of country ceded by these five individuals. I could say much more about this treaty, but I will not at this time. It has been the origin of all our disputes.”

Gen. Pike, in his visit to the village in 1805, seemed to have made a good impression upon the Indians. He met Black Hawk at Dubuque, on his return from a war excursion. Black Hawk speaks of this visit, and says :

“A boat came up the river with a young American chief and a small party of soldiers. We heard of them soon after they passed Salt River. Some of our young braves watched them every day, to see what sort of people he had on board.

The boat at length arrived at Rock River, and the young chief came on shore with his interpreter, and made a speech and gave us some presents. We in return presented him with meat and such other provisions as we could spare. We were well pleased with the young chief. He gave us good advice, and said our American father would treat us well."

Notwithstanding Pike made a good impression upon the Indians, and removed many of their prejudices, still there seemed to have been, from the time of their learning the conditions of the treaty made by the five chiefs, a feeling among a portion of the Indians that they had been wronged, and the nation were divided among themselves in their sentiments; one party cultivating friendly and the other hostile feelings towards the United States. And by subsequent acts it would seem that the government of the United States did not look upon this treaty as being fairly made; for in several treaties afterwards made with the Sacs and Foxes, the government stipulated for the "re-establishing and enforcing" of the treaty of 1804. If this treaty had been fairly made, and was binding upon the Indian nation, it would naturally be supposed that it would have been the true policy of the United States to have insisted upon its provisions, and if not complied with to have enforced them, and that such a policy would have been pursued on the part of the government.

Soon after the making of this treaty, the United States commenced the erection of "Ft. Edwards, now Warsaw, Illinois," within the limits of the recently acquired territory, which gave much uneasiness to the Indians.

Some of the chiefs, with a delegation from their nation, went down to the point, where the Fort was being erected, and after having an interview with the commander, the Indians became apparently satisfied and went home.

They also erected Fort Madison on the West side of the Mississippi, in the territory not ceded by the Indians, about ten miles above the Des Moines Rapids.

"This Fort was constructed by Col. Zachariah Taylor, and named in honor of James Madison, President of the United States."

The building of Ft. Madison at this point, by any reasonable construction, was a violation of the treaty of 1804. By the eleventh article of this treaty, the United States had a right to build a fort in the vicinity of the mouth of the Wisconsin River; but that would not, by any fair construction, authorize them to construct a fort where this was located; and by article sixth they had bound themselves, "that if any citizens of the United States, or any other white persons, should form a settlement upon their lands, such intruders should forthwith be removed." Yet the United States, notwithstanding they had made such stipulations with the Indians, built Ft. Madison within the limits of their reserved territory. This act on the part of the United States gave great dissatisfaction to the Indians; and not long after its erection, a party, of whom Black Hawk was the leader, determined to destroy this fort. Their spies having ascertained that the troops were in the habit of marching out of the fort every morning and evening for parade, the party concealed themselves near by for the purpose of firing upon them and taking them by surprise when they came out. About sunrise on the morning of the proposed attack, five soldiers came out, and the Indians, not waiting for the regular drill, fired upon the five and killed two before they could return within the protection of the fort. The Indians kept up this attack for two days, firing into the fort and endeavoring to set it on fire; but finding their exertions unavailing, they gave up the effort and returned home.

A great portion of the Indians, at the head of whom was Keokuk (the Watchful Fox), felt disposed to sanction the treaty of 1804, and to cultivate friendly feelings towards the United States; while Black Hawk and his party, jealous of the encroachments of the whites upon their hunting grounds, took the opposite course, and their feelings of hostility were increased by the machinations of the British. Some of the dissatisfied Indians were in the habit of making frequent visits to the British agents of the North-West Company, and received liberal presents from these authorities. McKee,

Dickson and Girty, who were connected with the Company, were open and industrious agents in exciting the Indians to commit depredations upon the American frontiers. It being understood in the nation that there was about to be a war between the United States and Great Britain, the friendly portion sent a delegation to Washington and tendered their services to the United States in case of war; and immediately after the war of 1812 was declared, a deputation was sent to the American agent at St. Louis, offering the service of their warriors in the American cause. But on both occasions the United States declined to receive the proffered services, and requested them not to interfere in their quarrel with Great Britain, but to quietly pursue the chase and provide for their families, which request was strictly adhered to by Keokuk and his party.

Shortly after the declaration of war, Girty came to Rock Island with two boat loads of goods. He had an interview with Black Hawk, and distributed presents among the Indians, among which was a keg of rum and a large British silk flag, which was hoisted in the village. Girty informed Black Hawk that Col. Dickson was at Green Bay with a large quantity of goods, arms and ammunition, and was anxious that he should join him with his warriors in the war against the Americans. Black Hawk, with about two hundred braves, was induced to go to Green Bay, where he found Dickson encamped with a large body of Indians collected from other tribes. He had an interview with Dickson, of which he gives the following account:

“He received me with a hearty shake of the hand, and presented me to the other chiefs, who shook my hand cordially, and seemed much pleased to see me. After I was seated Col. Dickson said, ‘I sent for you to explain to you what we are going to do, and the reasons that have brought us here. Our friend Girty has told me in the letter you brought from him what has taken place. You will now have to hold us fast by the hand. Your English father has found out that the Americans want to take your country from you,

and has sent his braves to drive them back to their own country. He has likewise sent a large quantity of arms and ammunition, and we want all your warriors to join us.' He then placed a medal around my neck, and gave me a paper (which I lost in the war) and a silk flag, saying, 'you are to command all the braves that will leave here day after to-morrow and join our braves near Detroit.'"

On the following day Black Hawk's men received their quota of clothes and arms, and the next morning they started, numbering in all about five hundred braves, to join the British. Black Hawk remained in the service about a year, and was engaged in several battles, but does not seem to have achieved any signal honors.

In the month of August, 1813, he was engaged in the attack upon Ft. Stephenson, at that time under the command of Major Croghan. The repulse given to the combined British and Indian forces, disheartened Black Hawk, and he and about twenty of his band left the service and returned home to their village on Rock River, where he would probably have remained during the war, had it not have been for an outrage committed on his adopted son.

Previous to his joining Col. Dickson, Black Hawk had paid a visit to an old friend, whose son he had adopted and taught to hunt. He wanted this youth to join his band and go with him to the war; but the father being old and dependent upon his boy for game, was unwilling he should leave him. The old man, with his boy, went to spend the winter below the Des Moines River, near a white settlement. As Black Hawk was returning home from the war, not far from his village, he observed a smoke arising from a hollow, and he went to see what caused it. Upon approaching near the fire, he discovered an old man seated on a mat, who proved to be his old friend, in the greatest distress, destitute and alone. Black Hawk administered to his wants as well as he could, and revived the old man's sinking spirits so that he was enabled to give a short account of what had happened during his friend's absence. The old man said, in a feeble

voice: "Soon after you left to join the British, I descended the river with a small party to winter at the place I told you the white men had requested me to come to. When we arrived I found a fort built, and the white men who had invited me to come and hunt near them had removed to the fort. The war chief who commanded it told me that I might hunt on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, and no person would trouble us; that the horsemen only ranged on the Missouri side, and he had directed them not to cross the river. I was pleased with this assurance, and immediately crossed over and made my camp for the winter. Game was plenty, we lived happy, and often talked about you. My boy regretted your absence and the hardships you would have to undergo.

"We had been here about two moons, when my boy went out as usual to hunt. Night came on and he did not return. I was alarmed for his safety, and passed a sleepless night. In the morning my old woman went to the other lodges and gave the alarm, and all turned out in pursuit. There being snow on the ground they soon came upon his track, and after pursuing it some distance found that he was on the trail of a deer that led to the river. They soon came to the place where he stood and fired, and found a deer, hanging upon a branch of a tree, which had been skinned. But here also were found the tracks of white men. They had taken my boy prisoner. Their tracks led across the river and then down towards the fort. My friends followed them and soon found my boy, dead. He had been cruelly murdered. His face was shot to pieces, his body stabbed in several places and his head scalped. His arms were tied behind him."

Here the old man ceased his narrative, and soon died. Black Hawk staid by his body through the night, and the next day buried it upon the bluff. Deeply touched by the mournful fate of his old friend and adopted son, his vengeance was aroused. He remained at his village but a few days, when, by narrating what he had heard from his old friend, he soon collected a band thirsting for vengeance, and pre-

pared to carry on an offensive warfare upon the frontiers. They descended the river in canoes to where Ft. Madison had stood, but found it abandoned and burned. They continued their course down the river till they came near "Cap au Gris," where they killed one of the United States rangers, but were driven away by troops from Ft. Howard. The Indians, about thirty in number, rallied in the woods, and on the 24th of May, 1814, a severe battle was fought between Black Hawk and his party and the troops from Ft. Howard. Lieutenant Drakeford, in his official report, gives the following account of this battle:

"Yesterday, about twelve o'clock, five of our men went out to some cabins on the bluff, about one quarter of a mile below the fort, to bring a grindstone. The back-water of the Mississippi rendered it so they went in a canoe. On their return they were attacked by a party of Indians, supposed to be about fifty in number. They killed and tomahawked three and wounded one mortally. While about this mischief, we gave them as good a fire from a little below the fort as the breadth of the back-water would permit. Captain Craig and myself, with about forty men, waded across the water and pursued them. In going about a half a mile we came on them, and commenced a fire which continued about one hour, part of which time at a distance of forty steps. Shortly after the commencement of the battle we were reinforced by Captain Musick and twenty of his men. The enemy then ran; some made their escape, and others made to a sink-hole that is in the battle-ground, and from there they returned a most rapid fire. It being very dangerous to approach nearer than fifty steps of the sink, we at length erected a breast-work on the two wheels of a wagon, and resolved upon moving it up to the edge of the sink to fire from behind down into the sink and preserve us from theirs. We got the moving battery finished about sunset, and moved it up, with a sufficient number of men behind it, whilst all other posts around were sufficiently guarded in case they should be put to the route. We had not moved to within less than ten

steps of the sink before they commenced a fire, which we returned at every opportunity. Night came on, and we were obliged to leave the ground and decline the expectation of taking them out, without risking man for man, which we thought not a good exchange on our side. During the time of the battle another party of Indians commenced a brisk fire on the fort.

“Captain Craig was killed in the commencement of the battle; Lieutenant Edward Spears at the moving of the breastwork to the sink.

“The morning of the 25th we returned to the ground and found five Indians killed, and the sign of a great many wounded that had been taken off in the night. The aggregate number of killed on our part is, one Captain, one third Lieutenant and five privates; three wounded, one missing, one citizen killed and two wounded mortally.”

Black Hawk, in his account of this battle, states that but eight of his men were with him in the sink-hole; that after their assailants had retired from the field, during the night they left the sink-hole and made their way back by land to their village.

Thus Black Hawk, with his band, which, on account of their adhering to the British interest, had become known as the British band, continued their hostilities towards the Americans, and were sustained in their course by the British government, till the close of the war.

And Great Britain, in negotiating the treaty of peace made at Ghent, had a provision in favor of Indians who had fought under their banner against the United States. In the ninth article of that treaty is the following:

“The United States of America engage to put an end, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all tribes or nations of Indians with whom they may be at war at the time of such ratification; and forthwith restore to such tribes or nations, respectively, all the possession, right and privileges which they may have enjoyed, or been entitled to, in one thousand eight hundred and eleven,

previous to such hostilities ; provided, always, that such tribes or nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against the United States of America, their citizens and subjects, upon the ratification of the present treaty being notified to such tribes or nations, and shall so desist accordingly."

This provision was also made reciprocal on the part of Great Britain in their relation to Indians favorably disposed to the United States.

The division in sentiment of the Sac and Fox nation towards the United States, had caused them to have different locations for their villages. Those friendly to the United States had moved over to the west side of the Mississippi, and one band of the Sacs had located themselves on the Missouri; while those who were friendly to the British occupied their old village at Rock Island.

The United States, in accordance with their agreement in the treaty at Ghent, took immediate measures to establish friendly relations with the Indian tribes, and for this purpose William Clark, Governor of Missouri Territory, Ninian Edwards, Governor of Illinois Territory, and Auguste Chouteau, Esq., of Missouri, were appointed commissioners to treat with the several Indian tribes interested. The commissioners had a council at Portage Des Sioux, and on the 13th of September, 1815, concluded a treaty with those Indians who resided on the Missouri River and had been friendly disposed to the United States, in which they acknowledged the validity of the treaty of 1804, and agreed to remain distinct and separate from the Sacs of Rock River, giving them no aid or assistance whatever until peace shall be established between them and the United States; and the United States, on their part, promised to guarantee to the band on the Missouri all the rights and privileges secured to them by the treaty of 1804.

On the 14th of September, 1815, the same commissioners concluded a treaty with a band of Foxes who had been friendly to the British, in which it was agreed that all injuries and acts of hostility committed by one or either of the contracting parties were to be forgiven, and peace established

between them, and were to give up all prisoners in their hands to be delivered up to the respective nations; and this tribe also recognized and confirmed the treaty of 1804.

Black Hawk and his band, who resided at Rock River, with some of the Pottawatomies, notwithstanding they had been notified of the peace, were not inclined to bury the tomahawk up to as late as the spring of 1816, but committed many depredations on the frontiers. And in this they received the encouragement of the British on the North-West frontier, who, in some measure, participated in these acts of violence against the Americans.

It was in the spring of this year that the garrison at Prairie du Chien was captured, and Black Hawk and his party made an attack upon some boats ascending the Mississippi with some stores and provisions for this place. In this attack one of the boats was captured and several of the crew killed. The remaining boats were compelled to return, and went down the river to Ft. Edwards, near the mouth of the Des Moines River.

Soon after this attack upon the boats, Black Hawk and his allies were inclined to listen to some propositions for a respite of hostilities towards the United States, and himself and twenty-one other chiefs and warriors went to St. Louis, and met some of the commissioners who had held treaties with the other tribes, and made an adjustment of their difficulties.

This treaty was made on the 13th of May, 1816, but not ratified and proclaimed until the following December. This band of Indians were at the mercy of the United States; for by the treaty at Ghent they could not expect any support from the British Government; and the neighboring Indians, as well as some of their own nation, had made peace with the United States, and refused to give them any help; and not having numbers sufficient to contend with so powerful an enemy, they were forced to submit to any terms which might be imposed upon them.

Under these circumstances, Black Hawk and twenty-one of his party were induced to sign a treaty, in the preamble of

which their many faults were enumerated, and the magnanimity of the United States portrayed in glowing colors; and in the first article they were made to give their "unconditional assent to recognize, re establish, and confirm the treaty between the United States of America and the united tribes of the Sacs and Foxes, which was concluded at St. Louis on the third day of November, 1804, as well as all other contracts and agreements heretofore made between the said tribes and the United States."

The United States agreed to restore them upon the same footing on which they stood before the war, provided they would restore all the property they had plundered since they were notified of the ratification of the Treaty of Ghent. And in case they did not deliver up the property aforesaid, or any part of it, by the first day of the following July, then the United States were to be exonerated from paying their proportion of the annuities as provided by the treaty of 1804.

Thus there was a friendly relation established between the whole Sac and Fox nations and the United States, and the Indians were left to pursue the chase, and peaceably provide for their families. Soon after the treaty of 1816, the United States built Fort Armstrong on Rock Island, but a few miles from Black Hawk's village. This act of the United States was considered by the Indians as another violation of the treaty of 1804; the acknowledging of the validity of which had been exacted of them in the late treaties; and it gave great dissatisfaction to them, particularly to Black Hawk and his party; but not having the power to resist the intrusion, they submitted to it without any acts of open hostility. Yet they felt conscious that the United States were doing them a wrong, and the injury was treasured up for an opportunity to avenge their grievances. This island in its native state was a most beautiful spot, and much admired and resorted to by the Indians. In addition to this, they had a traditionary belief that a good spirit, which watched over the interests of their people, dwelt on the island in a cave of a rock, upon which the Fort was built. Previous to the erection of the

Fort, the spirit had often been seen on the island; but about the time they commenced building the Fort, alarmed by the noise and intrusion of the whites, it was seen to come out of the hole, spread its beautiful white wings, and disappear, and was never seen in those parts afterwards.

During the year 1817, the Sacs for some cause attacked a party of the Sioux, and killed several of their number; but the difficulty was settled, and there seemed to have been a general peace among the Indians till the winter of 1819-20, when the Sacs and Foxes had a difficulty in their own nation, which threatened to seriously disturb their peace and happiness. A young Sac had killed one of the Iowa band, and the latter demanded redress. The old habit of appeasing the friends of one who had been killed, by presents, had been done away with, and these bands had established a law among themselves, that a murderer would be given up, and punished by death. The young Sac who had killed the Iowan was taken sick, and not able to travel, which delayed the immediate adjustment of the difficulty; and the Iowa band were preparing to take vengeance upon the Sacs. Black Hawk, with a party of his men, undertook to settle the difficulty, and made preparations to visit the Iowa village. They called at the lodge of the young Sac, and found him still sick; but he resolved to go with them, and prepared for his journey, when his brother interposed, and offered to go and die in his place; and the party started on their way with his brother. When they reached the Iowa village, they dismounted and bid farewell to the young brave, who went forward singing his death song, and seated himself in the middle of the lodges. One of the Iowa chiefs came out to the party, when Black Hawk informed him that the young man who committed the murder was sick, and that his brother had come in his place to die for him. The party of Sacs saw the Iowas gather around the young man, with their spears and clubs; and, not wishing to see him executed, mounted their horses and started for their own village. At night they stopped to camp, and were about to kindle a fire, when they were suddenly alarmed

by the tramping of horses, and prepared for an attack from an enemy. But to their surprise, they saw their young friend, whom they had left at the village of the Iowas, coming with two horses. The Iowas, after threatening him with acts of violence, gave him something to eat, smoked the pipe with him, furnished him with two horses, and bade him return home in safety to his friends.

In the fall of 1820, Black Hawk and some of his band made a visit to their British father, at Malden, and received many presents from him. These visits were frequently made, and probably did not result in cultivating any friendly feelings towards the United States. In the winter of 1822, Black Hawk and some of his party encamped on Two Rivers for the purpose of hunting; and while there, some white men caught him, and, under the pretense that he had killed some of their hogs, beat him with sticks so severely that he was confined to his camp for several days. This treatment greatly strengthened his prejudice against the Americans; but not having the power to avenge the wrong, the insult was quietly submitted to. The ensuing summer, the propriety of the whole nation removing to the west side of the Mississippi was urged upon them by the agent at Fort Armstrong. The principal of the Fox chiefs, as well as Keokuk, favored the removal, and urged the Indians to go. But some of them were opposed to going, and called upon Black Hawk for his advice. He took the ground that their lands had not been rightfully purchased, that the Americans had no right to insist on their removal, and as a matter of policy he was opposed to it. From this time till the close of the Black Hawk war, Black Hawk seems to have been the master spirit among those hostile to the United States, and Keokuk of the friendly party.

It may be proper here to notice some of the events in Keokuk's life. Keokuk was a descendant of the Sac branch of the nation, and was born near or upon Rock River about the year 1780. He, like Black Hawk, was not a hereditary chief; but rose, by his energy and skill in managing the

Indians, to be the head man in the nation. The first battle he was ever engaged in, he encountered and killed a Sioux, which placed him in the rank of warriors, and he was presented with a public feast by his tribe in commemoration of the event. During the war of 1812 with Great Britain, a force was sent by the Government of the United States to destroy an Indian village at Peoria, on the Illinois river. A runner brought the news to the village, that the same troops were going to attack the Sacs, and the whole tribe were very much alarmed. A council was instantly called, and it was determined to immediately abandon their village. Keokuk, who as yet had not been admitted into their councils, was standing by, and heard the result of their deliberations. He went to the door of the council lodge, and asked the privilege of addressing the council on the subject about which they had been deliberating. He was admitted, and expressed his regret at the conclusion they had come to, and argued the propriety of preparing for a defense before a retreat; and concluded by saying, "Make me your leader; let your young men follow me, and the pale faces shall be driven back to their towns. Let the old men and women, and all who are afraid to meet the white man, stay here; but let your braves go to battle!" This speech had its desired effect, and the warriors at once declared they were ready to follow Keokuk, and he was chosen their leader. The intelligence turned out to be a false alarm; but the conduct of Keokuk had its effect, and raised him to the first rank among the braves.

On another occasion, Keokuk with his band was hunting near the country of the Sioux. Very unexpectedly a mounted band of Sioux came upon them, fully equipped for a hostile attack. The Sacs were also upon horseback; but they had not the force or preparation to openly resist the attack of the enemy; nor could they safely retreat. In this emergency, Keokuk immediately formed his men into a circle, and ordered them to dismount and take shelter behind their horses. The Sioux raised their war whoop, and charged upon their enemy with great fury; but the Sacs, protected by their horses, took

deliberate aim, gave them a warm reception, and caused them to fall back. The attack was repeated; and, after several unsuccessful assaults, the Sioux retired, much the worse for the encounter.

Subsequent to this, when the Sacs supposed the Sioux were on friendly terms with them, they went out on a buffalo hunt, leaving but few braves to protect their village. Unexpectedly Keokuk came upon an encampment of a large number of Sioux, painted for war, and apparently on their way to attack his village. His warriors were widely scattered over the prairies, and could not speedily be collected together. These circumstances called into requisition the tact of a general. Keokuk was prepared for the emergency; he mounted his horse, and, unattended by any one, boldly rode into the camp of the enemy. In the midst of their camp he saw raised the war pole, and around it the Sioux were engaged in the war dance, and uttering expressions of vengeance upon the Sacs. Keokuk dashed into the midst of them, and demanded to see their chief. At the approach of the chief, he said to him, "I have come to let you know that there are traitors in your camp. They have told me that you were preparing to attack my village. I know they told me lies; for you could not, after smoking the pipe of peace, be so base as to murder my women and children in my absence; none but cowards would be guilty of such conduct." When the Sioux had got a little over their surprise, they gathered around him, evincing an intention to seize him, when he added in a loud voice, "I supposed they told me lies; but if what I have heard is true, the Sacs are ready for you." And immediately put spurs to his horse, and left the camp at full speed. Several guns were fired at him, and a number of the Sioux mounted their horses and chased him. But he escaped unhurt, brandishing his tomahawk, and making the woods resound with the war-whoop; he soon left his pursuers in the distance. He immediately collected his warriors, and prepared to defend his village. His enemies, finding that they had been discovered, and fearing that Keokuk, by his bold adventure to their camp,

had planned some strategem, abandoned their enterprise, and returned home without molesting the Sacs. Keokuk was more distinguished as an orator and statesman than as a general. He was one of the most eloquent speakers in his nation, and was not surpassed by any in managing his own people, and others with whom he had intercourse; and some instances of his sagacity as a civil officer will hereafter be noticed.

After the Indian Agent at Rock Island had urged upon Black Hawk the propriety of moving to the west side of the Mississippi, he had an interview with Keokuk, to see if matters could not be adjusted with the President, so that they might buy back the land about their village, on Rock River, and give other lands in place of it; and Keokuk promised to go and see the Indian Agent at St. Louis.

During the following winter, while Black Hawk and his party were on a hunting excursion, several white families moved to their village, destroyed some of their lodges, and commenced to fence up their fields. Black Hawk, upon hearing what was going on at his village, returned and found his own lodge occupied by whites. He went to Fort Armstrong, and entered a complaint about the intrusion of the whites. The Agent not being at home, the interpreter, acting in his place, gave Black Hawk no aid or satisfaction about ejecting the whites from his village, but advised him to move to the west side of the Mississippi. He then went to the Winnebago sub-agent, who gave him the same advice he had received at Rock Island. He next visited White Cloud (or Wabokieshiek), the prophet, who had much influence with the Sacs and Winnebagoes. White Cloud was a shrewd, stout, fine-looking Indian, at that time about forty years old, in the prime of life, and was greatly respected by Black Hawk and his band, for his sound judgment. He had a village on Rock River, called after his own name, and was recognized among his people as chief. His father was a Winnebago and his mother a Sac, and he exercised his influence as prophet over both nations. He did not shave his head, as was the custom with Indians, but wore his hair long, covered with a white turban, suitable,

according to Indian custom, to his profession. He was sagacious, cunning, and had a perfect knowledge of Indian character; prerequisites which were essential to sustain his character as a prophet among his people; and he had much to do in directing the career of Black Hawk and his band in their difficulties with the whites. White Cloud advised Black Hawk not to leave his village, but to remain there peaceably, and endeavor to persuade Keokuk and his band to return to Rock River, and probably the whites would leave. He now joined the hunting party, and hunted till spring. When they returned from their hunt, they found the whites still at their village, engaged in fencing up their corn-fields and preparing to cultivate them. Soon after they returned in the spring Keokuk paid them a visit at Rock River. He informed Black Hawk, that he had been to St. Louis, that he had accomplished nothing with the Agent there; and instead of giving his assent to return to their old village, as White Cloud had advised, he used all his influence to persuade the remainder of the Indians to follow him, and establish their lodges on the Iowa where he resided. This he urged as a matter of policy to preserve peace, and not embroil the nation in difficulties with the whites. Black Hawk taunted Keokuk with cowardice, for thus wishing to quietly give up their village and the graves of their fathers to strangers, who had no right to the soil; and this interview only widened the breach of friendship which existed between them.

(To be continued.)

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'ANNALS OF IOWA:'

"I received, some time ago, from Col. James C. Parrott, now postmaster at Keokuk, a very interesting letter, of which the following is a copy. It was not intended for publication; but I found that I could not well condense or abbreviate it. I therefore send it for publication entire in the 'Annals.'

"Yours respectfully,

EDWARD JOHNSTONE.

"FORT MADISON, IOWA, June 1, 1868."

HON. EDWARD JOHNSTONE, *Dear Sir*: At your request I proceed to give you the following memoranda, incidents, &c., of the early settlement of Lee county, Iowa:

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.