

went near some of the American sentinels and were shot at and fell as wounded men, but on the sentinels coming up to dispatch them, they arose and tomahawked them.

This insult roused the indignation of the Indians and they determined to be revenged and accordingly commenced the attack at cockerowing. They had the Americans between two fires; driven by the Winibigoes they were received by the Kikapoos, alternately, till about 9 o'clock when the Indians gave way for want of arrows and ammunition. It appears that not above 100 Indians fired a shot, the greater part being engaged in plundering and conveying of horses.

The Indians asserted that they had less than 300 men in the field, belonging to seven different nations, and admitted the loss of only 25 in killed and wounded.

Replying about the same time to inquiries from Colonel Claus, Elliot assured him that "all the Indians, with the exception of a few stragglers of all the nations within the limits of your sketch, may be depended upon; the exact number of whom I can not give you, but the following is what I have been able to collect of those living from the St. Croix River to the Wabash, viz: Chippewas, 300; Nodouessies, 1,000 and upward (because there are 1,000 in one party); Saukies, 1,000 went against the Osages; Foxes, 1,000; Mashoutas, 500; Iowas, 200; Menominies, 300. The situation of their villages is out of my power to ascertain. The part of the country I was formerly acquainted with has entirely changed its face with its masters and the Indians have moved to other parts. The Ottawas of the Miami Bay and branches of that river and about Sandusky are about 300 men."

A considerable number of British traders were then domiciled near the Mississippi in the vicinity of Prairie du Chien, and Brock applied for information to Robert Dickson, the most influential of these, who had spent more than twenty years of an adventurous life in the exploration of the western country and with whom he appears to have previously discussed the subject.

A message to him was dispatched from Toronto on the 27th of February, 1812, by an Indian runner, and delivered early in June at the portage between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, requesting him to state definitely the number of his "friends" who could be depended upon, and directing him to send down "a few faithful and very confidential agents." Dickson replied that "the unparalleled scarcity of provisions of all sorts" had reduced the number of his "friends" to 250 or 300, speaking several different languages, but that they were all ready to