

for the Prophet's town, where they arrived on the 6th November. When within about half a mile of the town the troops formed the line of battle, which the Indians perceiving, sent three of their chiefs with a flag of truce, begging that their lives might be spared, pledging themselves that they would not take up the tomahawk against the troops, and that if they would encamp near the town, in the morning they would come to such terms as the Governor should propose.—This lulled the troops into security, and they encamped about half a mile back of the town. Fifteen minutes before 5 o'clock the next morning the savages commenced a furious attack on the left flank of the troops—but a single gun was fired by the centinels or the guard in that direction, which made not the least resistance, but abandoned their officer and fled into camp, and the first notice which the troops of that flank had of the danger, was from the yells of the savages within a short distance of the line—but even under those circumstances the men were not wanting to themselves or to the occasion. Such of them as were awake, or were easily awakened, seized their arms and took their stations; others which were more tardy, had to contend with the enemy in the doors of their tents. The storm first fell upon capt. Barton's company of the 4th U. S. regiment, and capt. Geiger's company of mounted riflemen, which formed the left angle of the rear line. The fire upon these was excessively severe and they suffered considerably before relief could be brought to them. Some few Indians passed into the encampment near the angle, and one or two penetrated to some distance before they were killed.

Under all these discouraging circumstances, the troops (nineteen twentieths of whom had never been in action before) behaved in a manner that can never be too much applauded. They took their places without noise and