

by the neighbouring Indians, who carried on a desultory warfare with them ; which, if they had remained where they were, must finally have terminated in their total destruction. To return would be attended with great danger ; they therefore concluded to advance further into the country, which they considered would be flying from it ; besides, in the latter direction, game, the most important object next to their safety, was very abundant. The execution of this resolution was hastened by several skirmishes, which the Kickapoos had about this time. They accordingly crossed the river, and coursed up its banks till they blended with the ridges and hills. During the early part of the march, the hunters had some engagements with hostile wandering parties, which, though by no means decisive, operated, in the aggregate, much against them. They, however, found, as they receded from the larger streams, and good grazing grounds, that this annoyance almost entirely ceased ; but then the game diminished with the danger : there was, nevertheless, a sufficiency to supply all their wants ; and they again fixed their camps, with the hope of enjoying uninterrupted peace, till more of their nation should join them, and they were better prepared to repel injuries. In this they were, however, disappointed ; for they were shortly after surprised by a large party of wandering Pawnees, which massacred and scalped nearly all their warriors, and took the remainder, including men, women, and children, prisoners. The march that followed was long, and over a broken country, which, to the best of my recollection, was not interrupted by any very large stream.

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