

escape. On the 1st of August, as he was attempting to cross the Mississippi, he was interrupted by an armed steamboat. Whether he judged his case to be so desperate that he had no course left but to surrender, or whether he designed to practise a stratagem is uncertain. He displayed two white flags, and sent one hundred and fifty of his men down to the shore, making signs of submission. The Americans, suspecting this to be only a decoy, ordered them to send one of their canoes on board. This they declined doing, on which a fire was opened upon them from a six-pounder, together with a volley of musketry. Above twenty of the Indians were killed, and the action continued till night, with no loss to the Americans, except one man wounded. The next day Atkinson's army arrived, and the conflict was recommenced. After three hours' action, the Indians were totally defeated; great numbers of them were driven into the Mississippi, where they were drowned or despatched by the American sharp-shooters. Above fifty women and children were captured. Black Hawk, in the heat of the action, stole away, leaving all his baggage behind him, among which were found certificates, signed by British officers, testifying to his good character, and the services he had rendered by his bravery in fighting against the Americans during the war of 1812.

After the battle, Atkinson ordered Keokuk to send out some of his men and demand the surrender of the chiefs who had escaped, and particularly Black Hawk, whom it was desirable to take, alive or dead. This chief, in the mean time, had fled, with a small party, to