

speed. We followed her as far as practicable along the beach; but finding her strength so unexpectedly great, we could not attempt to board her with our small craft, and that to pursue her with our gun would leave our camp exposed to a sortie from the fort. We therefore abandoned the pursuit and dispatched a party of the Sauks to attack her in the rapids where she would probably run aground, and the men be obliged to disembark. This little action which lasted for about three hours was gallantly contended, our volunteers behaved with the utmost steadiness and bravery, and although the enemy kept up a smart fire from both the Fort and the Gun-Boat until the latter was dislodged, and many of their shot fell amongst us, only two men were killed and eight wounded, besides three Indians who were foolishly skulking about the fort, and were wounded. The Indians on the whole behaved as well as could be expected with the exception of the Puans. These last, although strictly forbid to injure the inhabitants, immediately on disembarking ran off to the village killing their cattle and pillaging the harmless inhabitants of every thing they could lay their hands upon. After the action was concluded, we returned to our camp to make preparations for attacking the fort.

On the 18th of July on inspecting our stock of ammunition, it was found there were only three rounds of round shot for our large gun; this day was therefore spent in making leaden bullets for her. At the same time Captain Grignon was dispatched with two Barges after the Gun Boat with orders to destroy her if possible. In the evening ten Indians arrived from Millivacki, and brought word that 20 more would join us in the morning, which they did.

Having previously thrown up two breast-works, the one within 700 yards, and the other 450 of the fort—and every thing being prepared we advanced in a body to storm it on the morning of the 19th; but just at the moment the first red hot shot was putting into the gun, a flag of truce advanced from the fort. This proved to be an officer with an agreement to surrender unconditionally, with a request that our commanding officer would save the officers and men of the enemy from being ill treated by the Indians. Upon this occasion the Sioux Indians behaved very well. On seeing the white flag, they not only ceased firing but ran forward, surrounded the officer and protecting him from the other Indians, conducted him safely to our commander.

There was still a very difficult task to perform, the Indians who far outnumbered our men, insisted upon giving no quarter to the enemy; and it being late in the day we could not take possession of the fort according to the terms of the surrender till to morrow. A strong guard was put into the fort and the Powder Magazine taken possession of, and it was agreed not to march out the prisoners till next morning. On the 20th (Friday) the Indians still bent upon the destruction of our prisoners, we dared not march them out of the Fort. Our commanding officer sent Capt. Anderson with two companies into it, with orders to shut the gates upon themselves, while he himself remained outside trying to pacify the Indians. After reasoning with them for three hours, representing the enemy as being now our slaves and that no brave man would kill a slave, he at length prevailed on