

Five companies of artillery made a rapid march of eighteen days from Fortress Monroe, on the Chesapeake, to Chicago, on Lake Michigan, but were unfortunately attacked by the cholera on the route, and the whole rendered unfit for service before they reached the seat of war.

General Scott, who was advancing with the reinforcements to take the command, found it impossible to join Atkinson with his forces in season to coöperate with him. He, therefore, directed him to pursue the campaign without waiting for his arrival. Atkinson scoured the country and attempted to drive the Indians out of their lurking places. Black Hawk, finding himself closely pressed on all sides, began to retreat. He abandoned a camp which he had formed at the Four Lakes, and moved toward the Mississippi. He took the route of the Wisconsin, having been assured that the tribes in that quarter would join his party, and that he should meet with plentiful supplies of provisions. In both of these expectations he was disappointed. No allies joined him, provisions were not to be procured, and he received advices that the American army was in close pursuit of him. About forty miles from Fort Winnebago, as he was about to cross the Wisconsin, on the 21st of July, he was attacked by an advanced body of the Americans, under General Dodge. The attack began about sunset. The Indians were defeated, but, under cover of the night, they escaped across the river. The Americans had no boats nor canoes, and, being fatigued by the day's march, could not pursue them.

Black Hawk was now bent solely on the means of