

eight of their number were killed. The Americans demanded that the murderers should be given up, but Black Hawk refused, alleging that it was an affair between two Indian tribes, who were independent of the authority of the United States. The act, however, was committed on the United States' territory, and the murdered men were at that time under the protection of the American government.

Early in the spring of 1832, Black Hawk had collected a force of Sacs, Foxes and Winnebagoes, amounting to about a thousand men. At the head of this army he crossed the Mississippi and commenced a hostile invasion of the United States. The frontier inhabitants, alarmed at the approach of this powerful force, abandoned their farms and remote settlements. The governor of Illinois ordered out a brigade of militia. General Atkinson, the commander of the United States' troops on that frontier, marched toward the scene of hostilities about the middle of June. The regular troops and militia amounted to three thousand four hundred men. Black Hawk knew that he was unable to resist so strong a force, and withdrew from the open country into the swamps, from whence he sent out marauding parties against the unprotected settlements. In this manner he ravaged the mining districts of Michigan, and murdered a number of defenceless families. These transactions, and the defeat of a party of two hundred and seventy Americans, who were attacked and dispersed by Black Hawk, at Sycamore Creek, spread the greatest alarm throughout the country. More troops were ordered from the sea-coast and other quarters.