

CONGRESSIONAL.

In SENATE.—Monday June 11, 1832.

On motion of Mr. WEBSTER the bill to equip and mount a portion of the United States infantry, for the defence of the north western frontier, with the amendment to the same from the House, authorizing the President to receive into the service mounted volunteers to the number of 1000 men, was taken up for consideration.

Mr. TIPPOX rose to propose some amendments which he hoped would obviate the difficulties that had arisen.—

He said the bill now before the Senate, as amended by the House, provides for raising one thousand mounted gun men to protect the north western frontier against the Indians. He would have been satisfied with the bill as it was, for he was anxious to stop the effusion of blood, and the destruction of property in the frontier country. Some Senators object to the number of men to be raised, some to their term of service, and others to the discretionary power vested in the President. On a former occasion, he had stated that five hundred men were competent to the service, if led by an officer suited to the occasion. This was still his opinion, but yielding to the wishes of the representative from Illinois, for whose opinion he had great respect, he had left the number blank. Some Senators have said to the friends of this measure, agree among yourselves, and we will vote with you for any sum that is required.

In order to settle this matter, and to procure the prompt action of Congress, I now propose, said Mr. Tipton to amend the amendment, by asking for five hundred men, to serve one year, to be commanded by one Major, and a suitable number of platoon officers, to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. He had no fear of the discretionary power vested in the President. The President knew too well what was due to a suffering people, and to his own fame, and he had given too many pledges of fidelity to his country, now to err in regard to conducting an Indian war. Pass this bill, with this amendment, and in thirty days from the day the President's order is received in the western states a sufficient force will be on the frontier, and of that description of troops that will inspire confidence in our people, and enable them to return with their families, to their former homes. This number of men is amply sufficient to keep peace, and the presence of an armed force is, at all times necessary to awe these Indians into submission.

An Indian has no love for the American people.—The missions, the teachers, and the preachers, sent to them have not civilized them; nor will the long prayers made, nor the hypocritical hands holden up, in the eastern cities, in behalf of the poor Indians, have much effect in warding off the scalping knives from our heads. To explain the cause of his anxiety on this subject, Mr. T. read a letter from Major Brown, dated May 30th, stating that General Walker, with 400 men had gone out. General Walker, said Mr. T., is a brave and active young man, his followers are suited to the service. While they are out, the frontier will be protected. But these men live by their industry, and cannot remain long in the field, and when they return, more murders will be perpetrated. By this attack, three hundred of the frontier people, we are told, are thrown back upon those living in more secure places. Those who have not lost their lives, have lost their property and the opportunity of making bread for this season. Another letter informed him that there is not bread enough in the country to serve the people on the frontier ten days.

The Indian has struck his blow, and will lie close and conceal himself until our militia return from their expedition; at the approach of autumn when the settlers driven by necessity, return to recover their property and to put in winter grain for the next crop, unless we have an armed force there, this war will be renewed. And, Sir, said Mr. T., will you expect us to renew this application, next year, to Congress, with another mournful list of murders! If you do, you are, perhaps, mistaken. Let me tell you what will be done. There are about five thousand and one hundred Indians in Indiana; and, in Illinois, eight thousand six hundred. We are neighbors, cannot agree, and are now at war. You must separate us by removing those Indians out of these States: or you may be sure, Sir, that we will exterminate them. From this war, and this danger, the Miamies and a part of the Pottawattamies are exempt. If you will send the force which we want, it can, under judicious officers, protect the white people and the friendly Indians until all the Indian tribes are removed from our vicinity.

This is no Tariff bill to talk and write and threaten about and put off until next year. It comes home to our business and bosoms. Our wives and our little ones, our all are at stake. We cannot, we will not delay. Let me entreat gentlemen, whatever they do, to do it quickly. It is better for us that you should this day, before the western mail goes out, decide. Denial is better for us than delay. When you tell us no,—you must defend yourselves,—we cannot spare the money,—the Tariff will not be modified,—we dread giving the President this power,—there are but few Indians at war,—your men now out will watch the Black Hawk, until he starves—then, Sir, we understand you. Understanding then, Sir, we know what to do. I am no prophet—but I would not be surprised if all the Indians from Tippecanoe to the Mississippi, should be exterminated before the end of one year. Sir, it is our duty, in self defence, to do this, and after it is done let me not be told—you Western people are savages,—you murdered the poor Indians. Do gentlemen expect us to beg the lives of our families upon our knees. It is not in our nature, we cannot we will not do it.—

Congress will adjourn in a few days, and when we return to our people, and tell them that we have done all in our power to procure men for their defence and have failed; then, Sir, our constituents know what to do, and upon you, not upon us, be the charge of what follows,—for these wars will be brought to a close in the shortest possible way.

It is proper that I should state that I have conversed with the Secretary of War, and that he approves raising this corps. I wrote to him, but he is absent, or I would have had a letter to submit to the Senate upon the subject.

I am opposed, continued Mr. T., to popular elections of military officers. They create much difficulty, and are subversive of Military discipline.—When an officer is charged with an expedition, and directed to take his men to a certain point and do a certain thing, he is responsible for the execution of the order. Can he say to this man go there, to another stay here, if he is electioneering with them.—Military service requires power to enforce discipline, if you will make it efficient. The President knows this. He has been embarrassed by these things in his campaigns. I confide in him that he will not appoint Cadets from West Point, nor bar room Clerks and counter-hoppers to command our men. No, Sir, he will ask the honorable Senators from Illinois or Missouri who is competent to command, who will your people confide in?—and he will appoint men who are recommended by the representatives from the States in danger. As to the organization of the corps, Mr. T. said he wished it to form a part of the army;—the officers to be commissioned for three years, and the men enlisted for one year, unless sooner discharged; and the law to remain in force three years. His object was to avoid popular militia, by creating a permanent and efficient corps to maintain the peace of the frontiers.

Mr. KANE thought the occasion did not admit of delay, and for expedition's sake, he would take the amendment as it came from the House.

Mr. HENDRICKS said, that he had a few words to say, chiefly applicable to filling the blank, should the amendment proposed be adopted. The bill as it originally passed the Senate, proposed the mounting of a corps of infantry, for the protection of our inland frontier. It had no reference to the recent troubles of the north west, but had its origin in a belief entertained for years past, that this description of troops was better suited to the service in that quarter than infantry or foot. This bill had been modelled in the House of Representatives, in direct reference to the Indian war now waging between the Mississippi and Lake Michigan, and proposed as a substitute, the raising of one thousand mounted gun-men, volunteers, corps organized or to be organized, as the President might direct, to continue in service, or be dismissed from it, as his discretion might see fit. The amendment proposed, said Mr. H. looks not so much to the present crisis as to the permanent defence of the country, and contemplates a corps of mounted rangers, on the model of those employed on the frontier, during the last war. This latter purpose, said Mr. H., I approve, and believe the latter description of troops decidedly the best adapted to the service, and the most efficient that can be called into it. This was the testimony, he believed, uniformly given in favor of these corps during that war, from the frontiers of Ohio to the Mississippi river. These troops were more active, more energetic, more rapid in their movements, and as brave as any other that have heretofore ever been employed in the service. They were indeed citizen soldiers; having all the advantages of discipline, and all the interests of the country concentrated upon them. It was his opinion, that so much better were this corps suited to the defence against Indians, that 500 of them would be better than the 1,000 proposed by the amendment of the House of Representatives. He wished this corps to be organized as the bill proposed, to be made a corps of the army, officered as the rangers were during the last war, and this could be done as it then was, either by arbitrary appointments of the President and Senate, or by selections of the officers on the part of the companies; these selections being afterwards sanctioned by the appointing power; for in both ways were the companies of rangers officered during the war. He would also pay these troops as they have been heretofore paid; would give them one dollar per day, and require them to find their own rations, clothing and horses. He would at a proper time move to fill the blank with 600, with a view of their being organized into six companies, which would in his opinion, after the present crisis should pass away, be abundantly sufficient for the protection and tranquility of our whole exposed frontier. The officers would be continued in the service as long as the service might need them. The men would be enlisted for one year, unless sooner discharged, and whenever it should be thought advisable, the whole corps, officers and men, could be instantly disbanded.

Mr. H. further remarked, that all the objections to the proposed amendment, could in his opinion be readily answered. It had been said that the raising of rangers would be a measure of delay, and that the volunteers proposed by the amendment of the House, were already in the field. We have been urged in favor of the bill as it came from the House, by considerations of the present emergency on the frontier. He for one did not feel himself to be legislating for the present emergency at all. That emergency had, in all probability, before this passed away. The Indians were no doubt dispersed and sheltered in the deep forests of the north west; and if this was not now the fact, it would be so long before any troops we could raise by this bill

could be brought into the field. For the present emergency, there were already too many troops in the field; more than could be employed. They were in each other's way, and the greatest difficulty they would feel, would be the want of supplies. Communications from the seat of war has told us, that 4000 Illinois militia were already there, and that their number was daily increasing. The militia from the western counties of Indiana had also marched to the point of danger. He had seen a letter this morning, informing that the Governor of Indiana had ordered a Brigadier General, with his whole command to repair to the frontier, if in his opinion such force might be needed. We have even heard of movements of militia in the State of Ohio. It was idle to suppose that the first emergency could be sidled by the bill now before the Senate. There were or had been probably five men in the service where one was needed. This was creditable to the militia of the new States. It was a part of their history that they would simultaneously repair in to the point of danger.

Sir, said Mr. H. in voting for the measure now before the Senate, I feel myself called upon to provide an efficient corps, for the protection and tranquility of the frontier. Such force he thought necessary, although the recent speck of war should have wholly disappeared; for it would be recollect, that the recent disturbances have not been the first which within the last few years have been excited by these tribes on the Upper Mississippi. They repair yearly to Malden and Fort Drummond, and receive large presents from the British; and feel that they have a resting place without the limits of the United States. Future hostilities may be expected from them. This their past history as well as their present feelings, induce us to expect, and for this state of things it was our duty to provide. 600 men organized into six companies, 2 companies, to be raised in each of the States of Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, mounted and kept in motion would be a sufficient protection for the whole line of our exposed frontier.

After some further debate, the Senate adjourned. On the 14th the bill was again taken up, and further debated by Mr. Tipton and several other members, when the question was taken on Mr. T.'s amendment and carried in the affirmative. The bill was then reported to the house, and the amendment concurred in. The following is a copy of the bill, as it passed both houses:

AN ACT to authorize the President to raise mounted volunteers for the defence of the frontier.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to raise, either by the acceptance of volunteers, or enlistment for one year, unless sooner discharged, six hundred Mounted Rangers, to be armed, equip, mounted and organized in such manner and to be under such regulations and restrictions as the nature of the service may in his opinion make necessary.*

*Sec 2. And be it further enacted, That each of the said Companies of Rangers shall consist of one Captain, one first, one second and one third Lieutenant, five Sergeants, five Corporals, and one hundred privates, the whole to form a Battalion and be commanded by a Major.*

*Sec 3. And be it further enacted, That the said non-commissioned officers and privates shall arm and equip themselves, unless otherwise ordered by the President, and provide their own horses and shall be allowed each one dollar per day as a full compensation for their services and the use of their arms and horses. The commissioned officers shall receive the same pay and emoluments as officers of the same grade in the army of the United States, and the officers shall be allowed forage for their horses and be entitled to the same rations as those of the same grade in the army of the United States, respectively.*

*Sec 4. And be it further enacted, That the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates raised pursuant to this act, shall be entitled to the like compensation in case of disability, by wounds or otherwise, incurred in the service as has heretofore been allowed to officers, non-commissioned officers and privates in the Military establishment of the United States, and shall be subject to the rules and articles of War and such regulations as have been or shall be established according to law, for the government of the army of the United States, as far as the same may be applicable to the said Rangers, within the intent and meaning of this act, for the protection and defence of the Northwestern frontier of the United States.*

*Sec 5. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, is hereby authorized to appoint, all the officers, proper to be appointed under this act, which appointments may be made during the recess of the Senate, but shall be submitted to the Senate, at their next session, for their advice and consent; and that the sum of fifty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, for the purpose of carrying this act into effect.*

*Romance of real life.—On Friday April 26, 1832, D. Fulton, one of the Coroners of this county was called to view the bodies of Elizabeth Bird, and Abraham Van Dyck, found drowned in Brown's pond, town of Clinton. They were tied together round the waist and from previous declarations, no doubt remained but that they had deliberately made way with themselves. They were seen going to the pond on Wednesday preceding, she quite intoxicated, and it was supposed he not much better. They had divested themselves*

of their upper garments which were carefully deposited near the Lake, together with a bottle containing the remains of a pint of Rum which they had purchased that morning, perhaps not an hour before they took their fatal plunge.—Both were habitually intemperate. *Poughkeepsie paper.*

Indiana War!

*From the Illinois Galician, June 6.*

SEAT OF WAR.

The Editor of this paper being Surgeon in the 17th Regiment of Illinois Militia, and called into active service, by Col. J. M. Strode, was ordered to proceed, with a mounted detachment of about 70 volunteers under command of J. W. Stephenson, to Dixon's Ferry, across Rock river, in order to guard despatches to Gen. Atkinson's army and to reconnoitre the different groves where Indians had so often issued and killed many of the most valuable citizens. Being present, we are able to state facts as they actually presented themselves.

On the 26th ult. we started and travelled on the road leading by Apple river to Peoria encamped first night at the farm of Mr. Avery. On the next morning we began our march and soon passed the fort on Apple river, where we found a stockade, in which were about one hundred men, women and children, defended by Captain Stone's company of Militia. We soon reached Kellogg's old place, near which had perished, by the blood stained hand of the ruthless band of the savage foe, four of our fellow citizens, mentioned in our last, viz: Felix St. Vrain, agent for the same tribe who shed his blood, Messrs. Hale, Fowler and Hawley.

We searched for their bodies, where we had been directed by their surviving companions, but did not succeed in finding them. We saw near the spot, very many tracks of Indian horses in the midst of those of the whites; and a little distance further, we discovered a trace where about 100 Indians had crossed over from the Mississippi towards the main army of the enemy, about two days before which, was the time that St. Vrain and his companions were killed. We proceeded onward about two miles when night began to approach, we to look for an advantageous situation to make our encampment. It being desirable to get into some point or small grove of timber, which would fend off arrows and rifle balls, we turned off the high ridge prairie road towards a point of timber projecting from a large grove on our right. When about a quarter of a mile from the road, Capt. Stephenson called a halt till our spies went to examine the grove and report whether it would be suitable for our encamping ground. While our horses were grazing about the prairie, an Indian on a fine horse rode up on the ridge in full view, and stood for some time counting our numbers. Upon which several of our horsemen gave him chase for about three miles towards the woods of the Pick-a-ton-e-ka, but could not come up with him. By this time it began to grow dark and the persons returned. We all presumed that he belonged to the same party which had made the above mentioned trace; and had been sent to spy and report to the main band, who, had they thought themselves strong enough, would no doubt have attacked us. Finding no water at the grove, we marched on a few miles, came to a small creek and there remained two hours to let our horses feed and rest. At the sound of the bugle, we mounted and moved on in the midst of night, to a house owned by Mr. Chambers, where we quartered through the remainder of the night. Early the next morning we commenced our march, passed through Buffalo Grove, where had recently fallen our lamented fellow citizen, Wm. Durley, by a band of Indians; and after viewing his rude tomb, we hurried our march till we reached Dixon's Ferry.

We visited Gen. Atkinson's head quarters, learned that on the evening before he had received, per express, a letter from Gen. Reynolds, stating that the whole army under Gen. Whiteside, had turned their course down to the mouth of Fox river of the Illinois, and were there to be disbanded; that Gen. A. on hearing this had spared no time, but had proceeded to the spot with his staff officers, and a few other men amounting to about 15 men in all. About 12 o'clock, M. of the same day, 4 men came through from Gen. Whiteside's army, and stated they had been chased by about 30 Indians on horseback, a distance of several miles. To the superiority of their horses may be attributed their escape from their merciless pursuers. They had not more than got out of sight of the Indians, when they saw at some considerable distance in the prairie, Gen. Atkinson and retinue, going in the direction towards this band of Indians; but being so far off, they did not think it prudent to delay long enough to ride to inform them of their danger. Circumstances render it very certain, that Gen. A. must have fallen in with those Indians; hence his fate is extremely doubtful.

We understand that it was the intention of Gen. A. to change his head quarters to the mouth of Fox river. This change we suppose was thought advisable on account of the late massacre among some families in that quarter. The General had reason, no doubt, to suppose the Indians were generally moving in that direction; but it seems not to be so, from late intelligence which we have received from the north and east. The main army of the enemy is now moving towards the Four Lakes, and causes great alarm among all the inhabitants throughout the mining part of the territory as well as at this place.

The stockade in Galena is nearly done, and those in the country are in a tolerable state of completion.

Every man who is able to bear arms has

been called into service, through the country, and none thinks of going a mile in any part of the country without his gun and bayonet.

Col. Strode has been diligent in sending for arms and ammunition to all the posts on the Upper Mississippi, except St. Peters, and has just received per order, from Jefferson Barracks 300 muskets, &c. with a sufficiency of cartridges, one six pounder with carriages, &c. and four swivels.

With all this aid, we think we may be able to defend Galena by a suitable concentration of force. But this is not to conclude this bloody war. Something more than defence has to be done before this country will enjoy one moment's security from savage invasion. They are to be extirpated or driven far beyond the frontier settlements before we can have a permanent peace. This country, embracing the territory, is doing all that her feeble force can against such allied powers as have assembled on our borders. But little, except a mere defence of the most prominent places, can be expected. Our mounted men are every day scouting over the country, in order, if possible, to ascertain where the enemy's army is, and to give check to the little parties of the hostile band, who are going about, cutting off all who may chance to fall in their way.

We hope the time is not far distant, when something effectual will be done for the relief of so distressed a country.

Gen. Atkinson, we mentioned in our last, had authorized Col. Wm. S. Hamilton to go and bring on the Menominees and Sioux Indians to the number of 1000 or under. Should he succeed we anticipate great benefit from such a force. Col. H. sent to Fort Winnebago requesting the commanding officer there to ascertain if Menominees could be found there, but a letter came to this place last Saturday directed to Col. H. from Capt. Plympton, stating that none were there, but that two companies had been started to go to General Atkinson on Rock river.

Gov. Reynolds has ordered on 2000 mounted militia who are to rendezvous at Hennepin near the seat of war on the 10th instant.

We are informed that a Regiment of mounted volunteers from about Kaskaskia, have organized themselves, and selected R. Holmes, of the U. S. army their Colonel. We have the honor to be well acquainted with that gentleman, and can do no less than congratulate our Illinois volunteers on their having so good and able a commander. We have about 100 mounted volunteers here who, we are certain, will be glad to co-operate with our friend, Col. Holmes, and his patriotic volunteers.

Gen. H. Dodge is certainly one of the most indefatigable and efficient men in this or any other country. He is constantly on the alert; one day he is found at home planning and adopting means of defence in case of attack, and the next day he is found pushing his little force of mounted *Spartans* into the very heart of the Indian country. We have great reason to fear that the Sacs and Winnebagoes have been planning a grand scheme for its destruction, together with his men.

Intelligence was brought to Gen. D. some days after the council, mentioned in our last, that the Sacs had marched an army of 400 warriors into the neighborhood of the Four Lakes, and that they had procured those two female prisoners who were taken near Fox river on the Illinois, by pledging to pay them a large sum, and that they were in a state of distress, being so penned up that they could neither retreat nor visit the Sacs without aid from Gen. D. From the same source he learned, that it was the intention of the Sacs to make an immediate attack on some part of the north-east border of the Mines. Without delay, Gen. D. proceeded with all the force he could raise in the territory, to the spot he thought most in danger; and not finding the enemy there, he, last Friday, marched towards the Four Lakes with a determination to know more about the hostile foe before he returns.

Since the return of Capt. Stephenson's company of mounted volunteers from Dixon's Ferry, it is deemed advisable to range near Galena, reconnoitre the country in its vicinity, and be so near that their assistance can be called, should there be need of them to the defence of this place.

On the 2d inst two express arrived, one from Fort Winnebago, in answer to a letter from Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, to the commanding officer at that place, enquiring whether any Menominee Indians could be had in that direction; we learn that there were not any in that vicinity.

Some day we learned that Gen. Dodge had met, on his way towards the Four Lakes at the Blue Mounds, two Winnebago Chiefs, Blue Whirling Thunder and the Little Priest. They pretended friendship. They say that the main body of the Sacs was about 40 miles from the Mounds.

On the same day we received, (not authentically,) information that the two young ladies had been brought in and given up to the whites at the Blue Mounds.

On the 3d, about 9 o'clock A. M. General Brady arrived here from Fort Winnebago, in command of two companies which had been ordered to repair to Gen. Atkinson's Head Quarters.

The officers who have command of the two companies, are Captain Lowe and

On the 4th, Capt. Stephenson's mounted volunteer rangers parted from this place, destined for an excursion on the frontiers, bordering on