

evade the payment of his debts, by granting him leave of absence for the few closing days of his term of service, so that if arrested for debt before he left the post, he could still avail himself of his enlistment as a bar to collection.

It happened that on the occasion alluded to, a non-commissioned officer had contracted a considerable debt with a trader, which he refused to pay. Some days before the expiration of his term of service, he applied to his officer for a furlough for his unexpired time, which was granted; and shielded by this, with his regular discharge, he left the garrison, defied his creditors, and was about to leave the country forever. In those days, it was lawful to arrest dishonest debtors, and imprison them until they paid their debts, or were otherwise discharged. The creditor applied to my old friend, who was a Justice, for a warrant; it was granted, and the soldier was arrested, and brought before the magistrate. The accused readily admitted the justness of the debt, but plead the law of the United States, which protected him as a soldier from arrest. After patiently hearing his defence, the Justice proceeded to give judgment in favor of the plaintiff for his debt and costs. The plaintiff immediately demanded execution against the body of the defendant. This too was granted. The soldier remonstrated with the Justice, saying he was a soldier of the United States' army and as such was exempted by law from arrest for debt, and concluded by assuring the Justice that "he did not understand him." The phlegmatic Justice, who did not speak very plain English, thus emphatically explained his meaning—"You-do-go-to-de-jail, and-stay-there-until-you-pay-de-debt, and-you-will-understand-me-very-well!" The result was that the defendant, rather than to go to the place named, pulled out his purse, paid his debt, and went on his way, though probably not rejoicing. The upright old magistrate could not understand the reasoning, that while an honest citizen paid his just debts, Uncle Sam's hard cases should go scot free.

It was not till 1824, that the civil code and civil authority could be considered fairly established in this part of the North