## 160 Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. iv

kept liquor, he asked me if I sold any to the soldiers? I frankly confessed that I had done so, when he told me that I must not do so any more, and advised me to close up my business and leave the country, or I would be sent out. I asked him who would send me out? He said that the commanding officer would. Mounting his horse, he still made use of abusive language. By this time my Ebenezer got up to the boiling point, when I sprang towards him with the intention of pulling him off his horse, and giving him a sound thrashing; but he was too quick for me, for he put spurs to his horse, and was soon out of my reach.

The next day a sergeant and file of men made their appearance to apprehend me and convey me to the fort. The sergeant was a fine fellow, and I reasoned with him, asserting that I was a free born Yankee, in my own castle, and should not go to the fort alive; and added, that I did not wish to have any trouble with him, and if the commanding officer wished to see me he had better come where I was. I then treated the sergeant and his men, and they left me unmolested. The sergeant afterwards told me that when he reported to the commanding officer, the latter flew into a great passion, charging the sergeant with cowardice, and declaring that he would go himself and take me dead or alive, and send me out of the country. I presume, upon the sober second thought, he concluded it would be the better part of valor to let me alone, for I never heard anything more about sending me out of the country. By way of punishment, he issued an order forbidding me entering the fort—a thing I did not care to do. the prohibition amounted to nothing. After that, the soldiers' wives would come and buy sugar of me, first carefully depositing a two quart canteen well filled with whiskey in the bottom of a large tin kettle, and packing the sugar on top, and smuggle it into the fort. The sentinel would hail them as they were re-entering the fort to learn what they had; when they would answer sugar, and looking into the pail the sentinel would let them pass. I remained unmolested for six months,