

hand, and a plate of butter in the other; several others with bread and pork in their hands, liberally helping themselves. One tall Indian was searching the cupboard, handing out whatever he could find. In the centre of the room sat a beautiful and intelligent looking lady, with a sick child on her lap, unable to move, for fear had chained her fast; she was pale as a corpse—the very picture of despair. I cleared out the Indians instantler, in their own language, bidding them *puck-a-chee*. As soon as the lady recovered so as to converse, she called her oldest child from under the bed, where he had secreted himself. She said her husband was three miles from home, at work. They were but five weeks from Massachusetts; had heard many frightful stories of Indian cruelties, but had never seen an Indian.

The other instance was of a different character. R. H. McMahan, an old hunter, who had pioneered on the frontiers of Missouri for years, had settled on Big Creek, which empties into the La Crosse River on the north side, five miles below Sparta. His family consisted of a wife and eight children. The Indians came to his house about the first of July, 1853, and commenced their abuse, when he ordered them to leave. They refused. McMahan had five rifles in the house; but not thinking of these, he seized a club, and drove them out. The Indians then presented their guns, and threatened to shoot; McMahan still drove them, step by step, with their guns pointed at his breast, when they perceived two long rifle barrels pointed at them, through crevices between the logs, and left, saying they would shoot his cattle and burn his house. McMahan's two oldest sons, lads of twelve and fourteen years, had prepared the guns ready to shoot, in case the Indians fired. McMahan came to Sparta, and told his wrongs. The citizens rallied to a man, and the next morning before 7 o'clock, the Indian camp was surrounded by over fifty rifles in the hands of staunch citizens. The whole band were taken prisoners, some seventy in all—thirty warriors, the balance women and chil-