

generally took place at the close of these drunken carousals, when they were particularly thirsty, and their supply was cut off.

All were jolly in the camp during the day, dancing, singing, and hair-pulling prevailed; and sometimes an attempt at stabbing. One poor fellow was stabbed over the right eye, following the skull around till it reached the left ear. An old man had his skull fractured by a heavy stroke from a fire-brand. On sobering off next morning, and fearing the fracture would result in his loss of hearing, as had been the case with his brother before him; and firm in the conviction that after his departure, he should join his brother in the land of happy spirits, he used a stiff straw, probing the wound and preventing all chance of healing and recovery, and soon died.

About twelve o'clock at night, the supply of grog became scanty. The empty kegs had been heated over the fire, and rinsed till even the smell of liquor was no longer perceptible; and to obtain more of the fiery beverage, one reckless fellow, with gun in hand, scaled our fortification, while the four guardsmen were sleeping in supposed security. The interpreter slept in a room, the door of which opened into the yard; and my room was adjoining. The noise of the drunken Indians outside had awakened him; and he called to me, saying there was an Indian in the yard with his gun. I threw on my clothes as quickly as I could; got to the door, with my hand on the latch, standing with my full front to the door. The interpreter now said something to me which I did not understand; and on turning to ask an explanation, the Indian fired, the ball passing through the door at the very spot where I had just been standing. The concussion nearly knocked me down. I looked on the floor, and felt of my body, but found no blood. I then rushed out, and caught the fellow by the hair before he had finished reloading his gun for a second shot. I threw him on his back before he had time to think of what was transpiring, and drew him inside, placing him in charge of the negro. All this did not consume five minutes, including my merciful preservation, through God's providential care of me.

Mr. Rolette, the third white man, pretended that he did not