

region, except with the countenance at least of the government agents, and the great fur company with John Jacob Astor and his immense wealth at its head, exercising almost despotic sway over them, as well as all others, in the region now known as the State of Wisconsin. Everybody was in their interest, and their influence with the Indian tribes was so powerful, that the man who undertook the hazardous task of thwarting their plans for profit, did so at the peril of his property, and even of his life.

But nothing daunted, Farnsworth secured his outfit of goods and provisions, for a winter supply, and planted himself alone in the heart of the Menomonee country. He had scarcely located and sheltered himself in a rude log cabin, when a large delegation of the head men of the tribe called to pay him a visit, and to warn him that he must quit their country without delay, or that his stores would be sacrificed, as their lawful prize, and resistance would cost him his life. There were fifteen or twenty of these stalwart sons of the forest seated around his cabin, when these threats were uttered, while he was attended by only a single man so terrified, that his assistance could not be relied on, if force alone were to decide the contest. In this dilemma, Farnsworth seized a keg of powder, placed it in the centre of the room, and fixed a stump of burning candle in the orifice at the top. He then addressed them in a calm but determined tone of voice, that he knew they were "braves"—that he also was a "brave" of the white men; and if his property and life must be sacrificed, they must all suffer the same fate; no truly *brave* man should ever fear death. Nothing further was said, but as the candle had nearly burned out, one after another of the Indians left the house in great haste, and the trader having got rid of his visitors, extinguished the lighted candle.

The sequel of the matter was, that he continued his trade through many winters unmolested, and his powder plot or scheme, by which the threats of the Indians were counteracted, and which convinced them of his fearless courage, and resolute determination to pursue his vocation, and stay among them as a trader, made a large portion of the tribe his devoted friends. The danger of his position, however, and the difficulties he had to encounter, con-