

see if they had whisky about them. Trusty sentinels were put on guard at all the sally-ports, and when the first review came off, every man was in his place, and after Capt. Knowlton had drilled them a while, the Major was perfectly satisfied with their discipline and equipments, and complimented the officers on the fine appearance of the men. That same evening, after supper, Major Garland proposed a stroll through town. It was a nice, moonlight night, and we remained out some time after tattoo. When we reached the gate that opened into the grounds that surrounded the Fort, something attracted the Major's attention, and he pointed an object out to me, and asked: Is that a cat going towards the Fort? I looked in the direction, and supposing it was only a cat creeping across the green, I paid no more attention to it. When we were about to enter the little private wicket in the north-east gate, Major Garland spoke and said, "See, that cat is making in this direction; it moves strangely, let us see what's the matter with it." So passing along under the wall, we reached a little ditch paved with rock, that carried off the water from the inside of the Fort, here we discovered a string stretching out towards the cat, that still continued to approach us. Stepping on this string, the Major cut it, and all at once the cat stopped within a few feet of us. It was evident the string governed the motions of the cat, and taking hold of one end, we drew the apparent cat up to us; but on close examination, it *proved to be a cat's skin, stuffed with a bladder full of whisky*. The Major had just been speaking of the unusual sober appearance of the volunteers, while I had lauded the reforming influence of the Temperance Society. He little suspected that the patrol guard we passed in our walk, had the *barrels of their guns charged with fire-water, warranted to kill forty rods*; but it was even so.

On the 6th day of September, 1848, I obtained my "honorable discharge," from the "Dodge Guards," and returned to citizen but not private life; for soon my friends offered me the office of Justice, which I accepted and filled for a number of years; since which time, all matters of interest have been no-