

was thrown from his horse, and the savages rushed upon him with the tomahawk. Captain Dixon charged upon them with his empty gun and rescued the wounded man. They then returned to the Fort, and raised the alarm. Scarcely had the inhabitants reached it, and closed the gates, when 270 Indians surrounded the Fort, and raising the most demoniac yells, mingled with the Indians war-whoop, commenced an indiscriminate fire. The gates being closed with Captain Dixon on the outside, he started at full speed for Galena. In his rapid flight west of the Fort he rode into a party of 25 or 30 Indians, who appeared as much surprised as himself, permitting him to escape without molestation. We now return to the Fort.

The Indians kept a hot fire for two or three hours, while concealed behind the stumps or out-buildings. Capt. Stone's company were mostly absent, and the fort numbered only some fifteen effective men. The women and children were panic-stricken, crying and wringing their hands. At this stage of affairs, Mrs. Elizabeth Armstrong, wife of John Armstrong, of Sand Prairie, in this county, finding the Fort but poorly supplied with balls, divided the women into two parties; the first, who could load fire arms, constituting the first division; the second were to run bullets. Mrs. Armstrong delivered to them a short effective address, telling them that it was but worse than folly to give up to fear in such an emergency as the present one—that they could expect no sympathy from the Indians, and to go to work immediately and do their best to save the Fort. They obeyed, and under her direction performed miracles. The second division supplied the balls, while the first received the empty guns from the loop-holes and returned them loaded. While passing round the Fort, Mrs. Armstrong discovered a man who, to escape the flying bullets, had snugly stowed himself away in an empty flour barrel. Quickly ejecting him from his retreat, she ordered him to take a gun and do service. Trembling with fear, he obeyed, dreading our heroine within, almost as much as the enemies without. After a siege of two or three hours, the Indians retired, shooting all the stock, robbing the cabins, and carrying