

me a dozen or more Indians. As they had also seen me, it was of no use to retreat and therefore I made up my mind to go ahead. As I came alongside of these stalwart fellows, I noticed that they had formed some plan in reference to myself, and they commenced trying to pull me off the pony, jabbering and insisting that it was their pony; but I stuck to the animal, not believing that they had any serious intention of doing me an injury. After they had frolicked with me as long as they wished, they allowed me to break away from them, and I put my pony to the top of his speed. One of the Indians chased me a long distance, and he being able to outrun the pony, when he got near enough he would bend upon one knee and point his gun at me, and the powder would flash in the pan without doing me any injury. It was, however, enough to frighten me almost to death. Finally, he tired of the fun and I proceeded on my way, and succeeded in borrowing enough coffee for a drawing and returned home, where I found the Indians. My brother asked the leader what their intentions were in regard to me, and he said they did not intend to hurt me; they simply wanted to frighten the little papoose.

Quite a trade was carried on with the Indians by the settlers, and many a fine piece of venison was secured, or a package of valuable furs, for a very small sum. That which they most sought after was whisky, and it was that which no honest settler would ever deal out to them, because it was only when maddened by fire-water that they became at all dangerous; therefore, it was for this very prudent reason that there was scarcely ever a white man found, in our section, mean enough to sell it to them.

Those of the settlers who became domiciled in the fall of 1837 were prepared in the spring of 1838 to spade or break up a patch of ground, and to plant potatoes and other vegetables to a small extent, which proved of great assistance. At first there was very little sickness; but as the land became broken up and otherwise improved, fevers, particularly ague fever, prevailed very generally, and I presume there is not an old settler living in Jefferson county who has not had some terrible experience with the "shakes" which he will