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less were accustomed to visit Captain Whidden for purposes of trade.

One morning a little after daybreak two of Mr. Noble's little boys went out of the garrison and left the gate open. The Indians who had been on the watch for a favourable opportunity for several days, now rushed in in a large body, and the inhabitants discovered that the enemy was upon them and there was no escape. It may be asked what it was that provoked this assault in a time of peace; but the question cannot be satisfactorily answered. It often happened that the people who were surprised knew no reason why they were so dealt with—the injury for which they suffered might have been committed by their ancestors long before they existed; or, as it probably was in the present instance, the hope of making money by selling their captives as slaves or by getting a good ransom for them, induced them to commit these atrocities.

Mr. Noble and his man-servant met the Indians at the head of the stairs and fired at them, wounding one in the arm. The Indians did not return the fire, but seized Mr. Noble, his wife and five children, young Whidden and Mary Holmes; the servant and two boys escaped. The captives were immediately carried to the water side, bound, and left in charge of a party whilst the others returned to the garrison, and after they had plundered it of all the silver and gold they could find, and as much provision as they chose, set fire to the barn and went back to their companions and the prisoners. All this was done in little more than an hour, and during that time Captain Whidden, who was aged and infirm, had with his wife concealed himself in a closet in the cellar. Having collected their captives and plunder, they immediately left the island and journeyed towards Canada. On their march they were tolerably kind, after their rough fashion, to the children; but one of them who was ill when she was torn from her father's house, died on the road. The rest after a most wearisome journey on foot, arrived safely in Canada, and were variously disposed of.