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common coal oil, and gives more than twice as much light as the best round wick open flame lamps. No odor, smoke or noise, simple, clean, no pressure, won't explode. Children run it. Several million, people already enjoying this powerful, white, steady light, nearest to sunlight. Guaranteed.

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tress Blake's pale lips.

"How many Indians, think you, there will be to fight ?" asked Blake.

"Some four hundred odd-perhaps more. We're ridiculously outnumbered, but we'll fight to the last man, God helping! Come! Hasten and gather up and Captain, get thy gun and give me thy arm! Where is little Mistress Betty and Dame Ogilvie?"

"Alas! They are from home. They went to York this morning," said Blake, making no motion to secure his gun.

The three stood in a silence that approached despair Each thought of the burnt bridge and Master Treadwell's weakness. Each waited for the other to speak. Then, like a sudden song of gladness on the heavy air came the sound-distinct this time-of the coachwheels. The Captain flung wide the door and there, a great, dark blur against the misty-dun colored back ground, stood the coach. Treadwell, with a loud "Whoa," drew up and sprang down to the ground. Elizabeth and her aunt, basket-laden, stepped out, The greeting they received : a com-

"Heaven deliver us!" broke from Mis- No tears, no word of complaint-only softly-spoken sentences of cheer fell from their lips, and high resolve shone in their patient eyes.

The attack was rather long in materializing, so long, in fact, that the eyelids of the lynx-eyed watchers grew heavy at their posts, and the late moon what thou valuest best, Mistress Blake, rose over the dark pine ridge and travelled westward where it hung at midnight, a pale gold crescent in the winter sky.

Two more hours passed. Then Blake, who stood at a small window near the door, consulted his great silver watch and found that it was past two o'clock. "God hasten thy courier that went to the Fort!" he whispered to Desborough. "We are but nine men."

"Aye," responded the other, "we are in sore need of more, though heaven be praised we are under cover and the snow lies three inches deep on the roof. If the devils attempt to fire us, their plans, methinks, may go awry."

It was not long after this that a long, dark shadow crept out of the pine thicket behind the cabin and darted forward to a lone tree, where it seemed to the forme nimbly, the latter slowly. melt into the shade behind the trunk. Then came another shadow, and another.

When the Boys Do Their Own Laundry

pound of thankful joy and palpitating Just as stealthily came more. The picfear. The news was quickly communicated; even Treadwell, who blinked stupidly, comprehending its gravity.

"Thou durst not return to York. Master Treadwell," said Desborough, pointing toward the east. "Look yonder!"

Above the pines rose a dull, red glow. "The devils have begun their work!" said Blake.

"Come, bundle the women back into the coach, and do you take them to my house, Treadwell. Captain, we shall foot it!" directed John Desborough.

Stopping only long enough to seize one or two articles of especial value and to extinguish the candles, the women entered the stage, while the two men walked rapidly after it. In less than half-an-hour the party reached a larger log cabin that stood in a clearing, two miles further west. Here were gathered about two score of settlers, including women and children. Two men were picketed before the house and within, at every window and loophole in the logs stood another man, armed with a sixshooter or an old "muzzle-loader." Some of the women also were armed, and stood ready to fall in as substitutes at the loop-holes. The children slept, but the women were wide-eyed, with drawn drawing back the bolt of the door. faces that held besides the sickening dread, a stubborn courage—the courage of, the pioneer woman the world over.

kets, also in shadow, stood heavily upon their guns, and the drowsiness of deferred sleep had caused them to relax, momentarily, from their vigilance, for they did not see those first shadowy forms, and the forest glades were silent as dim cathedral aisles. Those softlygliding figures might have been dark spirits from another world, so silently. did they come to life and then vanish, each behind its own tree or rock or clump of bushes. Suddenly an arrow sang through the still air. Another followed, then a third. The pickets, fully aroused, sped to the cabin door and gained it at the same instant that a volley of shot from the loop-holes answered the arrows. Alert as the gunners had been, they also had failed to discern the enemy's silent advance. Instantly every soul in the house was broad awake. The redskins apparently had scarcely expected such a prompt response, for there now ensued a hasty parley among them. They had aimed at the pickets who were now safely within doors. Happily, neither had been struck, though an arrow had spun through the fur cap of one, and there remained sticki: wards like an unwieldy hatpin.

"I'll speak to them," said Desborough, Then he stood forth upon the

threshold, unarmed. "Gray Rabbit!" he shouted, "Come

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