

provisions only a fortnight since, and have enough of everything for a three months' siege. There is no fear of our well failing us; and as for ammunition, we have abundance; seeing how Harold was using powder and ball, I had an extra supply when the stores came in the other day; there is plenty of corn in the barn for the animals for months, and I will have the corn which the men are cutting brought in as a supply of food for the cows. It will be useful for another purpose too; we will keep a heap of it soaked with water, and will cover the shingles with it in case of attack. It will effectually quench their fire-arrows."

The day passed off without the slightest alarm, and by nightfall the patch of corn was cleared away, and an uninterrupted view of the ground for the distance of a hundred yards from the house was afforded. When night fell, two out of the four dogs belonging to the farm were fastened out in the open, at a distance of from seventy to eighty yards of the house, the others being retained within the stockade. The garrison was divided into three watches, two men being on the alert at a time, relieving each other every three hours. Mr. Welch took Harold as his companion on the watch. The boy was greatly excited at the prospect of a struggle. He had often read of the desperate fights between the frontier settlers and the Indians, and had longed to take share in the adventurous work; he could scarcely believe that the time had come, and that he was really a sharer in what might be a desperate struggle.

The first watch was set at nine, and at twelve Mr. Welch and Harold came on duty; the men they relieved reported that all was silent in the woods, and that they