

waking impression being one of Red Mackintosh sitting beside the dead body of Radley, his head in his hands, and looking at the man whom he had been proud to call his friend.

Hal came back to the world of feeling at the call of Mackintosh; and, jumping out of bed, clad all ready for emergencies, he had a vision of Red standing, axe in one hand and pistol in the other, just near the outer door, on which blow after blow was descending. The zip of steel on wood told the youngster that axes were being used in the attempt to split open the door, but Hal knew that there would have to be much hard work before the stout planks would give way. The fear was that the lock might give.

"What is it, Red?" he asked.

"Just Grand and his crew!" was the reply. "Say, Hal, watch that window!" and Mackintosh pointed to the window on the right-hand side of the hut.

Hal, snatching up his own axe, sprang for the window, which was well boarded up, and as he reached it an axe thudded at the board, which seemed to bend inwards from the blow. It was not glazed, that window, but simply blocked in with wood, held in position by bars of wood placed across and lodging in iron supports. Simultaneously, the window on the other side of the hut was attacked, and Hal had a sense of dread, knowing that while it would be possible for them, perhaps, to look after the door and one