

## CHAPTER XVIII

“ALL’S WELL!”

**W**HEN the party was ready to start the following morning, Red Feather sprang a little surprise upon the palefaces.

“Listen, O Red Fox,” he said. “I go back to my people and not to the lodges of the palefaces. My people must know that I, their chief, live.”

“Jest as ye like, Red Feather,” Mackintosh said. “I’d have liked ye to come along wi’ us, but ye know best, an’ I thank ye, brother, fer all thet ye’ve done. If ye kin come to the fort later on, I’ll be mighty glad to see ye ther. If not, well, I’ll be down at Death Point next season.”

Hal looked at him as he heard him say that, but he did not ask any question; he realized that Red Mackintosh, at any rate, was not going to desert the North.

“Who knows?” Red Feather was saying. He turned to the Frenchman. “Brother, Red Feather would that you take his horse and——”

There was a chorus of protests at this, but the Sioux was adamant; and at last Brun accepted the gift. In a flash it came to Hal that without doubt Red Feather’s decision to go from them had been made chiefly for the purpose of placing his horse at