

when Radley wakes up and tells me his part of the story," was the cool reply. "If you think, Grand, that I'm going to interfere with Radley while he's like that and out here, you've made a mistake. Now, listen, I tell you—oh, all right," as Grand shrugged his shoulders defiantly, "then I'm going to fight it out! Hal——"

Hal was up beside him on the instant, and the factor, with his eyes glued upon Grand's face, reached out a hand to take the offered musket. The breed stepped back a little, and his men behind him came upon their feet.

"Is it fight?" Mackintosh queried. "I give you one more chance, Grand, and it is this: you and your men there come give me a hand with Radley to my post. We'll try to get him round, and, if he comes, I'll hear the story and—and this youngster here, who knows neither of you, shall be the judge of whose paper it is! What d'you say?"

The proposal, which was indeed a startling one, seemed to take the power of speech from Grand, and for a little while he merely stared at Mackintosh. Then, his inscrutable face still placid, he said quietly, albeit suddenly:

"I agree, Red!"

The fact that he did agree served to arouse suspicion at once in the mind of Red Mackintosh, who, however, having made his offer was bound to stand by it, and the result was that before very long the Indians who had been with Grand had come up and, making a hammock out of a pair of blankets,