as about to shut up for the here came a tapping at our I opened it and there stood

about through, sir?" he eep growling voice, ag to shut up," I said, thing I can do for you?" o me that he looked friendal, and in his countenance to be a gleam of something perilously like animation, replied, abruptly. tep into my workshop for

ve I measured him up and ood, thick stocky specimen nat's up now, old fellow?" self. "Well, here goes! I ok out for my skin as well yours.'

as very dimly lighted with allow candle, and at first but the little speck of red nidst of a jungle of ticking and tall. Then from the adows of them someone and taller, and at the next aken one bound across the a lot of loose wheels and something that I bumped

choolmaster. hty!" he exclaimed, and ped me on the back and

ny hand off, and I swear gged him. you come from?-When ere?—How are they all ked, all in a breath.
, slowly!" he laughed,

!—I came straight from least as straight as the would allow. I got here hey are all prefectly well am the bearer of a letter ," taking it out of his vn and read it."—Which opping to make apology, with all the little home I most wished to hear ed with the few words of now how to measure.

The Schoolmaster and onversed in a low tone, d at last finished they me. The Schoolmaster nile, the Sea Lion with ath his bushy eybrows o develop into one with

re here a whole hour!" reproachfully. e me," said The School-I tell you that it was ites ago that I learned oor. I asked the way to l my friend here had a you were nearer to me

er and mother?" ust before I left. When warm socks from your e you all her warnings are to do in case you

then I thought of Barry. ial news?" I asked. -no, nothing in parn trying to get Jimmie ome down to The Cornr, but there's difficulty ousing the oxen and the hens. . Red Jock's g and late these days. drinking harder than know Nick Deveril had sekeeper did you?—A i the boys gave him! it they say he's going There's some talk the tavern-in which, Too bad, too!

k alone. ut old Hank," I dehe doing these days?" soul, how did I forget in fine fettle. I've too—a whole roll—so arpet-bag. He's fine, rery busy! He's been illings, you know. A boy! Takes to it like

l in the fellow if only

oo," I added, "Hank , hasn't he?" er nodded, in his e head! A fine head! s going to get to the

top some day, in Canada,—and especially if our plans carry out successfully.'

I glanced at the Sea Lion, but he was sitting with is hands clasped over his stomach and his eyes on the floor, as motionless as an iceberg on the edge of the Polar Sea and about as expressive. "He must be 'one of us,' I said to myself and then I must have drawn down my brows in perplexity, for I felt, at that moment, as if, somehow I had deserted the ship. And yet, I consoled myself with thinking, I had done hut as everyone had wished me to do.

The Schoolmaster laughed, evidently misinterpreting my scowl.

"Oh, Clinkenbocker's all right," he said, "You needn't look so fierce."

At which I made haste to disclaim. "I wasn't thinking of him, I was wondering whether I should have stayed at home with the boys.'

The Schoolmaster waved his hand genially. "Not at all! Not at all! You're just where you ought to be. If things come to a head one of these days, as we expect, you can easily throw yourself in where you can be of use.

"You think, then—" I began.
But he cut me off—"Oh, something s bound to happen, before long either."
He glanced at our Companion, and

my glance followed. The Sea Lion had straightened up, and was sitting with his hands on his knees, chin protruding and

eyes glaring a bit.
"Do you know," laughed The Schoolmaster, "my friend, here, had put you down for a dyed-in-the-wool Tory.— Naturally, of course.

The glare relaxed to a twinkle and the long drooping moustaches twitched. And then the Sea Lion held out his—flapper—

which I shook with right good will. But never a word did he say. "He tells me," went on The School-master, "that the town never was in better shape for being frightened out of its seven senses, and that he imagines the Lieutenant-Governor may be intimidated, although so far he has shown no sign of fear and is very stubborn,more stubborn than ever.

'Stubborn's the devil!" came in a deep growl from behind the moustaches, so suddenly that I almost jumped.

"I was out at the Garrison, not long ago," I said. "And certainly there were very few soldiers there. As you know the troops are all in Kingston.

The Schoolmaster nodded, and I swear that I began to feel most uncomfortable, being a spy appealing not at all to my notion, so that I began to wonder just how much I might say without being traitorous to my new friends, while still remaining faithful to the old. Thus came to me, strangely enough, perhaps, for the very first time, a realization of the position in which I had placed myself, and Hank's words on that June day in the mill flashed back to me, 'Look out lest you sit down between

For a few moments so confused was I, in trying to place myself, that I quite lost track of the conversation, and heard not a word The Schoolmaster was saying, although I knew that his voice was going on. Then my mind seemed to clear itself. "If the worst comes to the worst," it said to me, "throw yourself in on the side of principle. Remember, 'The greatest good to the greatest number? on the square and you will be all right." Yet I hoped that The Schoolmaster would not put me in an embarrassing position.

I need not have feared, however, for before long I could perceive that he was careful to ask me no questions at all.

"Clinkenbocker tells me, he was saying, when I came back to myself, "that the young men continue to drill under Colonel FitzGibbon."

"That they do," I replied. "More than once I have been invited to join them, and have been to tell them. I came

them, and have had to tell them I am a Reformer. One of them asked me 'what blank difference that made so long as I intended to stand up for my country and the British crown? That looks to That looks to

me to have some reason in it. Again The Schoolmaster laughed. "So you've had to confess up to being a Reformer.—Well, an open confession is good

"Of course," I said, "one can't be totally discredited for that, even among the Tories, so long as such men as Rolph, Baldwin, Morrison and Bidwell are in

the place," Their loyalty, at least, is unquestionable."
"Grand men! Every one!" exclaimed

The Schoolmaster "Best in the land!" growled the Sea

'You know," I said, hesitating, then thinking no harm could be done one way or another, "that the Government and all this place knows all about the drillings?"

The Schoolmaster moved a bit un-

easily, and coughed.
"Yes," he said, "I have heard so.
I have even heard—don't ask me how that the purport of the turkey and piegon matches is well known, and that Sir Francis Bond Head and his advisers make merry over the whole matter, thinking the preparations all a mere

bluff for political purposes."
"And are they not?" I asked, rather sharply, looking at The Schoolmaster, but conscious of a quick shuffle on the

part of the Sea Lion. "I do not need to tell you, Alan," replied The Schoolmaster, slowly, "that actual fighting will only be resorted to

as a very last resort."
"Of course," I assented, "I have heard that often enough", and then I glanced at the Sea Lion. He was leaning towards me and his eyes seemed fairly to gleam in the half-gloom.

"You're with us?" he asked, booming the words out in a muffled roar. 'I have never been against you," I said, but The Schoolmaster took the

words from me. "I told you before, Clinkenbocker," he said, "that you could trust him or any of his name as you could your own

The Lion grunted, and sank back into his chair again.

I turned to The Schoolmaster. "And now tell me the news," I said. You know I have been hearing only the

other side for the past three weeks."
"Why," The Schoolmaster said, pulling at the long black wisp of hair that al-ways hangs over his forehead, "Where shall I begin? Did you know that Mackenzie left for the North about the end of the first week in November?"

'I did not know. "Of course up Yonge street is the very centre of the movement," he went on. 'Lount, Matthews, Gorham and others have been very busy there. In fact the greater part of the-the delegation expected to come from there. In the West, too, as you know, Dr. Duncombe has been most energetic. believe, too, there is some talk of having

Colonel Van Egmond assist actively."
"Colonel Van Egmond!" I exclaimed remembering well the kindly gentleman

who visited us last spring.
"Yes. He's an old man, but he has military tactics down to a science.-We have to be prepared for possibilities, you see.—Besides, his very name lends, lends-prestige-to the demonstration. Just as the names of Doctors Rolph and orrison do. I hear that Mackenzie has been able to use their authority up

With that I got up and began to pace

"And I have heard," I said, feeling myself on thin ice indeed, that Doctor Rolph and Doctor Morrison do not wish to connect themselves with the movement in any way

"All Tory talk!" growled the Lion. "No doubt," acquiesced The School-master. "There are no more steadfast opponents of the unjust domination of the Family Compact in this country, than those same gentlemen whom you named a few minutes ago as being the upholders of the dignity of the Reform party—the real patriots of this Canada.

Then he turned to the Sea Lion. "By the way, Clinkenbocker, what did you do with those Swift's almanacs

The Sea Lion got up and moved about among the clocks until he found the booklets, which he handed to me.

"Gives 'em the devil!" he growled,

"Let me see them," said The School-master. "Here, read this. It sets forth pretty well exactly what's what, what's needed, and what we're after. And I read:

he in the people's representatives; the Legislative Council to be elective; the representatives in the House of Assembly to be as equally proportioned as possible, the Executive Government to incur a real



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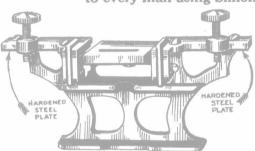
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