

Governor next inquired of Jean how his father and uncle fared. The boy then related the scene that had transpired on their arrival home. Frontenac was greatly amused on thus learning of the money lender's discomfiture, and chuckled and laughed to his heart's content. At length his merriment subsided, his face sobered, and he turned to more serious matters.

"The main object in having you come at this hour was originally to inform you of your appointments and hand over to you your commissions. All that, however, was done last night. I will say, though, that my idea of having a well-trained body of scouts is a serious one. The qualities you have displayed, and the success hitherto met with led me to select you as the officers of this important company, nicknamed by me 'The Little Regiment.' I wish you to pick out the men yourselves at once and devote all your time to training them, as I expect to call upon you and your men for active service at no distant date. I am confident that under your supervision they will quickly develop into as brave and efficient an organization as the members of the recent expedition showed themselves to be cowardly and weak. I shall stand as ready to reward in the one case as I am now about to punish in the other."

As the speaker paused, Jean asked with a troubled face:

"Pardon me, Your Excellency, but what do you intend doing to those who refused to advance? I hope you will not be too severe."

The Governor grew stern at these words and his lips closed in a determined manner.

"I have cut off all special privileges for one year and increased the garrison duty of every private soldier who turned back, besides doubling their drills and reducing their pay. The ringleaders, to the number of twenty, I have had placed in chains and closely confined since their return, and shall ship them back as prisoners in this vessel that arrived yesterday, with a request to His Majesty that he send me men in the future, not cowards."

Jean, unashamed at these harsh words, persisted in questioning.

"What will happen to them when they reach France? Will they not be disgraced forever?"