

the paper is safe and to make use of it. Get me ? ”

“ I get you,” said Hal quietly, at the end of the longest speech Red had ever made to him personally. “ And I promise you, Red, that I’ll look after it, whatever happens ! ”

“ Good,” was the reply. “ And now—— There they are again. Keep steady, lad ! ”

Hal kept steady enough as the blows began again on the door and the second window. There was no attempt now to try to get in at the opened window, and both defenders knew what they meant. It meant that the attackers were intending to get both other places open in order to be able to essay entry at all three spots, when, as the traders realized, they themselves might stand but little chance. Already they had this disadvantage, that the red men, having made an opening in the door, could fire through it, which rendered it a very difficult matter for the defenders to keep so close and constant a watch upon the windows ; it being necessary for them to shelter themselves.

A ball whistled through the door, and Hal, who had been peering out at one of the windows, heard it pass his head which had evidently been seen from outside. The boy understood immediately that his head had been in the line of the tallow light which had been kept burning, the better to be able to see what was happening.

It was at this moment that Red Mackintosh made a remarkable discovery. He had been looking in