

CHAPTER SIX.

When the Boys Got Busy.

WHILE Austin sat silently in his dark corner, wondering what all the noise could mean, the board that did duty as a door was pushed rudely aside. Into the dingy little place, like a streak of sunshine, burst Nysie! Then came Nipper. And wonder of wonders! Bob Hunt, Stubbs, and "The Dook," followed by three or four more of the Hang Together Boys, appeared.

"Hurrah! We have found a friend and classmate!" cried Nysie. "One we feared we might never see again! It was kind of you to take him in and care for him, Black Jack."

"Humph!" grunted Black Jack.

"We knew he was in danger," explained Nysie, "because the fellows down in La Sarre took such a notion against him, and declared that he was going up to rob you. They sent you up word to be on guard, and to give him more than he was looking for. And we were afraid that you might treat him rather rough, Black Jack, not realizing who he was; that's why I say it was kind of you to treat him as you did."

"Humph," said Black Jack again; and Jet nudged Nysie's arm, as if to say, "You don't know what you are talking about."

"Please tell me how you all got here," begged Austin.

"We worked the whole thing like a relay race," explained Nysie. "I worried about you after you left La Sarre till I decided something ought to be done. So I sent back word to the fellows in Cochrane with Nipper, because it wasn't my run just then. I knew the boys were just ready to start on their annual canoe trip up some of the rivers near by, so I said, 'Why not make it up the White River and find out how