

Burch ; 'not before nightfall, I reckon. 'Tes a gude job wan way,' he went on, 'as us can pick up anything as us is a mind tew now, vor into thicky cave us must go along o' the others, and theer us must bide until thase old barney's over wan way or t'other.'

It was obviously of no use to keep a matter secret which must perforce be known within a few hours, and Standen in a few words put the whole case to the fugitives, who, with Standen and Burch to direct them, rummaged the house from top to bottom, carrying such stores and conveniences as they could find to Burch's room, and thence into the passage-way, which quickly presented a curious enough appearance, heaped up as it was with mattresses, sheets, folding chairs, tins of biscuits, bottles of wine, big carafes full of water, and such other things as their necessities required.

'Tew things us musn't vorget,' said Burch to Standen as at last there seemed to be nothing more to take ; 'theer's the jools, sir.'

'Great Scott ! to think I should have forgotten that,' cried Standen, running off at once and feeling in his pocket for his keys as he ran.

'Aw, then,' said Burch to himself, with a satisfied grin, ' 'tidn't likely as I'm fer vorgettin' t'nem sparklers ; theer's Meary Perryman in