

his shoulders, and the exulting men had drawn him safely up. Then the whole party walked down to the whirling outlet.

"It's impossible young Armstrong could have come through here alive," said the chief, looking into the tunnel out of which the rising water rushed.

"There wasn't so big a volume this morning early when we were here before," said Vincent. "And Peter must have come down before that."

"You seem very sure he did come down."

"Well, sir, so I am. It's what I should have done myself in the circumstances. I was beginning to think of it when you answered my call."

"Lucky you didn't. Perhaps you are right. But it's surprising that he took the risk when he had plenty to eat."

"You forget how alarmed he was about his mother. Besides, he probably thought I had been lost, and he had no hope of a rescue."

"But what can have become of him if he got out here?"

"He would make for home up the river."

"Well, I hope your theory is sound," said the