

his head and face, leaving the mouth free. On one of these stones he rested his head. Lifting up another, he placed it above his face, and in this position awaited the result.

Edward watched these proceedings with something like amazement until their completion; but when he saw how effectually his companion was concealed, he resolved to follow his example. But there was little time left him, as the figures of their pursuers could be distinctly seen not more than two hundred yards below; and by the time his arrangements were made, and the water had closed over his head, the savages were within half bow shot of his place of concealment.

On they came, like so many demons, yelling and hooting in the mad excitement of the chase, each one carrying a blazing torch, consisting of a staff, split at one end, in which was fixed a handful of birch bark, which was replaced every now and then by another from the trunk of a neighboring tree.

It now became evident to the fugitives that their situation was extremely critical, as the light of the torches occasionally illumined the forest to the very tops of the trees, and revealed objects at the bottom of the water with alarming distinctness.

The Indians occupied both banks of the river, and were so disposed as to sweep the country for a considerable distance on either side as they advanced, thereby preventing the possibility of any one diverging from the stream without being discovered.

Two of the savages were following up the river—one on either side; and Arthur could see that their attention was particularly directed to the sand and mud in its bed. When they arrived directly opposite to the watery lair of the white men they stopped simultaneously, and pointed to the imprints made by the feet of some of the fugitives, and at the same moment tossed their flambeaux above their heads, making frightful grimaces all the while. It was an anxious moment for Edward and Arthur, who now looked upon their discovery as almost certain; and Arthur was on the point of springing from his cover and selling his life as dearly as possible, rather

than fall a passive victim to the relentless tomahawk, which already, in imagination, he felt cleaving through his skull; when, as if satisfied with the discovery they had made, the savages passed on, and ere long the young men were left once more in silence and solitude.

"Thank Heaven, we are safe," was Lee's fervent ejaculation, as raising his head above the water he reached out his hand to feel for his companion.

"Amen!" Edward responded, "we've had a narrow escape I trow."

"You may well say that. I thought our last hour had come, sure enough."

"I wonder how father and Philip fared," he continued.

"Safe enough, you may depend, or the yelping pack have not come up with them yet, else we should have heard from them."

While they were speaking a low whistle was heard a short distance up the river, to which they replied; and in a minute more they had the satisfaction of joining their companions, who had had as narrow an escape as themselves.

"Now then for the countermarch! We must make the best of our way down stream to the next river, and if the savages don't find out till morning that we have doubled on them, we may bid them good bye till we seek their acquaintance again—unless, indeed, we have the mischance of falling in with some straggling party in the dark."

With great difficulty the fugitives now retraced their steps, their toil being rendered tenfold greater than in the ascent, by reason of the increased darkness. Slipping on the smooth stones, stumbling over obstacles of various kinds—rocks, trunks, branches and roots of trees—falling occasionally on their faces in the water, they accomplished a wearisome and distressing journey of two miles in as many hours, when to their great joy they came to a brook which flowed into the river. Not that their task was done; they all felt that they had yet some distance to travel before it would be safe for them to halt; but the brook was like a mile post, the last one on a long journey, which, when passed, is behind the weary traveller;