

he had kept up a brave front and had endeavoured to make the best of their position; but now that he was alone he felt the full weight of the responsibility of guiding his companion through the extreme danger which threatened them both. He felt sure that the Indians would prolong the siege for some time, as they would be sure that no reinforcements could possibly arrive in aid of the garrison. Moreover, he by no means felt so sure, as he had pretended to his companion, of the power of the defenders of the house to maintain a successful resistance against so large a number of their savage foes. In the day-time he felt certain they could beat them off, but darkness neutralizes the effect both of superior arms and of better marksmanship. It was nearly midnight before he lay down with the determination to sleep, but scarcely had he done so when he was aroused by an outburst of distant firing. Although six or seven miles from the scene of the encounter the sound of each discharge was distinct to the ear along the smooth surface of the water; and he could even hear, mingled with the musketry of the faint yells of the Indians. For hours, as it seemed to him, he sat listening to the distant contest, and then unconsciously to himself, dozed off to sleep, and awoke with a start, to find Nelly sitting up beside him and the stream flowing down through the boughs. He started to his feet. "Bless me," he exclaimed, "I do not know that I had been to sleep. It seems but an instant ago that I was listening—" and here he checked himself—"that is, that I was wide awake, and here we are in broad daylight."

It was Harold's first care was to examine the position of the canoe, and he found that fortunately it had touched