

## CHAPTER XIX

### ARRANGING ANOTHER JOURNEY

When the Beaver came in sight of the island in the Lost Channel the boys landed and looked about for a moment, half expecting to find Tommy and Chet in the vicinity of the old camp.

"Perhaps they've gone to the little island further up!" Sandy suggested. "That's where Tommy discovered Chet, and they may have gone there to look for the lad Chet is expecting."

"Do you know where this island is?" asked Will.

"I've never been there," Sandy replied, "but it can't be far away."

The motor boat was placed under power again, and in a short time came within sight of the second island, now dimly revealed under the uncertain light of the moon, which appeared to be wading through great banks of heavy clouds.

"There's a fire on the island anyway," Sandy observed. "Shall we make directly for it?"

"Wait a minute," George advised. "We don't know what kind of people we'll find there! Perhaps we'd better draw up a short distance this side."

Watching the blaze intently, the boys pushed



the motor boat along for some distance and finally drew up in the middle of the channel some yards away from it. As they did so a volley of shots came from the shore.

"There's something doing already!" shouted Sandy.

"I've a great mind to take a canoe and investigate!" George observed.

"You'd better stay where you are!" advised Will.

The boys turned off the power and the searchlight and waited. The bulk of the boat was rather sharply outlined against the clearing sky.

George and Sandy were anxious to go ashore, especially as the firing continued, but Will and the Seminole managed to restrain them.

"Look here, boys," Mickey exclaimed in a moment, "there's a delegation of alligators swimming out to us!"

"Alligators nothing!" Sandy shouted. "I see Tommy's red head sticking up out of the water!"

"Je-rusalem!" shouted George. "Tommy and Chet went away together and there's four coming now!"

"Give me a hand," Tommy demanded, from the water, in a moment.

At the same time they heard some one else clambering into the canoe at the stern.

"Pretty soon," Sandy laughed, as he helped Tommy and Anse on board, "we'll be picking boys out of the sky!"

"Where's Chet?" asked George.