

THE RIVER FUGITIVES

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The river fugitives by Edward S. Ellis

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EDWARD S. ELLIS

**THE RIVER
FUGITIVES**



"A COLONEL SHOULD NEVER ASSUME COMMAND OF ANY BODY WHICH HE CANNOT CONTROL."—Page 77.

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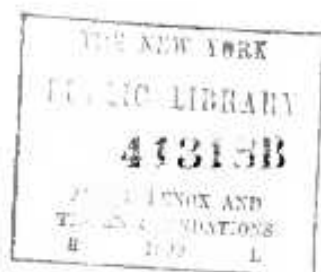
BY

EDWARD S. ELLIS

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"BOY PIONEER" SERIES, ETC.

ILLUSTRATED

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THE RIVER FUGITIVES.

CHAPTER I.

THE WYOMING MASSACRE.

"LOOK out, Ned, the Indians are as thick and plenty as hornets when you stir up a dozen nests of them; you're running altogether too fast, and you'll be in a trap before you know it."

"What's the use of talking that way, Jo?" demanded his companion, in an impatient voice; "if we hadn't done the hardest kind of running, we would have lost our scalps long ago. I can tell you that I won't feel safe till we've put a good fifty miles behind us, and we see Stroudsburg ahead."

"That's just what we aren't going to see for a good long while. There's many a long mile of woods between Wyoming and Stroudsburg, and the Tories and Indians know that the poor settlers are doing their best to get there and to

Wilkesbarre, and so they'll watch that route more than any other."

At the end of these hurried words, Ned Clinton and Jo Minturn came to a halt, and the former asked, in a frightened and somewhat petulant tone:

"Well, Jo, what do you think is the best thing for us to do?"

"We can't do anything just yet. We are both out of wind, and can't run faster than a man can walk; and so I say we may as well stop and take breath, and look over the ground a little before we try to get out of the neighborhood. Night will soon set in, and, if we are careful, we have a chance of dodging the Tories and Indians."

"A chance of dodging the Tories and Indians?" repeated the other boy. "Why, they are all around, and I don't see much show for us."

These were bitter words, but there was good cause for their utterance. The lad had not exaggerated the terrors of that day, in July, 1778, when it seemed as if a legion of fiends had been loosed, and given full power to work their will all through the lovely valley of Wyoming.

In order to understand the incidents we have taken upon ourselves to relate, we give as briefly