

with red mud. "I will pay you out for this, you see if I don't," Richard gasped hoarsely.

"What! have you had enough of it?" James said scornfully. "I thought you weren't any good; a fellow who would bully a little girl is sure to be a coward."

Richard moved as if he would renew the fight, but he thought better of it, and with a furious exclamation hurried away toward the Hall.

James, without paying any further heed to him, waded after the boat, and having recovered it walked off toward the child, who on seeing his opponent had moved off was running down to meet him.

"Here is the boat, Aggie," he said; "there is no great harm done, only the mast and yard broken. I can easily put you in fresh ones;" but the child paid no attention to the boat.

"He is a wicked bad boy, Jim; and did he hurt you?"

"Oh, no, he didn't hurt me, Aggie, at least nothing to speak of. I hurt him a good deal more; I paid him out well for breaking your boat and pushing you down, the cowardly brute!"

"Only look, Jim," she said, holding out her frock; "what will she say?"

James laughed.

"Mother won't say anything," he said; "she is accustomed to my coming in all muddy."

"But she said 'Keep your frock clean,' and it's not clean," Aggie said in dismay.

"Yes, but that is not your fault, little one; I will make it all right with her, don't you fret. Come on, we had better go home and change it as soon as possible."

They passed close by the two fishermen on their way.

"You gave it to the young squire finely, Master Walsham," one of them said, "and served him right, too. We chanced to be looking at the moment and saw it all. He