

and a desire to enjoy more of the society of Uncle Samuel, who was a very enticing, agreeable sort of an old man, so long as he was the gainer by being so.

Uncle Samuel knew better than to try any of his tricks openly, and therefore used all sorts of underhand means to make the boys dissatisfied with the prospect of living under the immediate care of their mother, and to paint in the most glowing terms the freedom and happiness they would enjoy under his own bachelor roof. He pictured on every occasion the entire absence of all restraint in his domestic arrangements ; how they could go and come at their pleasure in his house, and that instead of being tied to their mother's apron strings, as they would be if they went home, they would feel themselves men at once under his care.

It is hardly to be wondered at therefore if Bunsy and Sandy entertained a very high opinion of their uncle, especially as they came a good deal more in contact with him than any of their brothers. Mrs. Dominion consequently found a great unwillingness on the part of her two sons to place themselves under her maternal protection, and in fact they absolutely refused to enter her door unless she promised to place them on an equal footing with their elder brothers, and it is needless to say Uncle Samuel patted them on the back when he heard of their resolution ; the sly old fellow doubtless thinking that their mother would not consent to their demand. The perplexed widow now had to act as a mediator between her own children, and although her heart yearned towards her eldest born, yet she felt that in justice to her absent