

who, after his settlement, would need his sister Mary as a housekeeper.

"I wish I had a brother on shore," said Anna Trent, with a sigh. She belonged to a seafaring family, and her two brothers had sailed with their sailor-father on his last voyage.

"When you were speaking, Mary, you ought to have said you would go to keep house for your brother till he fell in love, and then it would be notice to quit for you," said Isabel Fortescue, who appeared to have the very knack of showing the unpleasant side of things. "Your brother will want you just till he finds somebody better."

"Oh, well, that is understood," said Mary, lifting her fearless eyes to Isabel's face. "When John finds a wife no one will give her a warmer welcome than I, for John's choice will be a woman we can all love."

"Question," said Isabel, briefly.

"I vote that we expel Isabel from the council," said Ursula. "She's caught the griffin to-night, and she'll be a bugbear in our midst."

The "griffin" was the school-girl phrase for bad temper, and it was very frequently applied to Isabel Fortescue.