

they, the eternal villains, the ——;" and Ichabod, in his wrathful indignation, continued to pour forth on them a string of strange epithets, not unmixed with oaths and curses as strange, which none but an American would even so much as have thought of.

"Ichabod," said Denham, with more dignity than one might have expected from one so young, "pray do not speak in that way. You should not use those violent expressions of any one, not even of enemies and bad men. And besides, they are not fit for my sister to hear."

"Hold yer impudence, young 'un," said Ichabod, roughly, but good-humouredly, "and come 'long. I mean to drop them 'ere words, I do, for the sake of that gal Minnie. Yes," he added, as he gathered up the reins, and prepared to drive back again from whence he came with the two children, "I'd do a sight o' disagreeable things rather nor vex her."

"But, Ichabod," said Denham, anxiously, "there is the worst of it. Minnie is in the forest, too, somewhere, for they dragged her out of the house-door just before me; but where she is I do not know. Pray do not take us home to your place till we have found her."

"Worse nor useless, Denham, to look for her, without lights, in the forest, when it's as dark as the blind man's eyes to-night. I come across to help at the fire, which I reckon is over to John Kirkpatrick's, and I did not calculate to bring lanterns along to see a blazing house by."