

some birds' eggs, and losing your time with your stupid bird?"

"What, *Little John*!" cried William. "Up to this time we have been obliged to do everything for ourselves. I wished to have a servant, and I think I have not employed too much time in teaching one."

"And what can your pupil do?"

"I'll tell ye what, Mr. George; he fishes three times better than you do, and without nets or lines."

"You are joking."

"You may go to the shore and judge for yourself."

The four went to the beach, where *Little John* began his labors under the direction of Will Trot. In less than an hour the bird had filled with fish the basket brought by his master, who was prouder of his pupil than if he had caught them himself.

"Mr. Ridler can see that I have not lost my time," said he, with mock gravity, "although I have not employed it in the same way as he did. Everybody takes advantage of life in the way best adopted to his capacity; all that is necessary is to employ every one according to his own inclinations."

This last instance particularly struck the old smuggler, not because it was more conclusive than the others, but because it came after them.—George began to understand that no faculty ought to be despised, and that every one has his place in the great human community. He had despised the weakness of Mrs. Keppel; and he, as well as his companions, were indebted to her for their lives; to her he was also indebted for consolation in the time of his suffering and confinement. He had found fault with the science of Tarling, yet it was the source of the abundance they enjoyed at present, and their security for the future. In fine, he had despised the puerile tastes of Wm. Trot, and these

tastes had procured them the services of an assistant as unexpected as they were valuable.

These successive lessons cured Ridler of his selfishness and pride. He understood now that the faculties he possessed, though more apparent at first sight, were not the only valuable gifts, and that all men who worked with a good-will could also lend their assistance. He resumed his pursuits, but with more humility.

In proportion as the advantages of associating together developed themselves among the four members of the little colony, they became more necessary to each other, and their union was more complete. George possessed the strength and courage of the little society, Arthur Tarling the science, William Trot the gaiety; as to the invalid, she was the charm and the cement of their union; she represented all the loftier instincts and feelings of the heart; she prayed, she sang; she spoke to each of the men of his mother; she maintained among them mutual good will; she was at once the priestess, the woman, and the poetess of this miniature society; each one found in her a moral judge and a second conscience. If Mrs. Keppel were pleased, they had acted well; if she were sad, they had done wrong. She seemed the living law of this family, whom she had softened by her piety, and whom she sustained by her affection.

Three years passed thus; they gradually came to look upon the little island as a new fatherland; their thoughts were scarcely turned, even at intervals, towards the world from which they had been so suddenly separated.

One morning, when Ridler was climbing the rock to descend to the shore, he suddenly perceived a vessel anchored a few cable lengths from the beach, and a boat, which had just