

Amsterdam to find his mother, but I showed him that that was an absurd idea ; he would be a stranger there and would have to begin life over again. I got Dirck a situation in Melbourne, and forwarded money to a steamboat agent to bring Mrs Minuit to Melbourne to her son, if she could be found. In good time she arrived, but she spoke nothing but Dutch, and Dirck had forgotten all his, their first meeting was rather absurd and it was some time before communication was fully established between them. I gave Dirck a thousand pounds to set up house keeping with when his mother arrived, and after a time he got a place in the library and is now first assistant there, with the prospect of being librarian in due time."

"But John," asked my mother, "where is your wife? Did you never marry?"

"No, Jane," I am not a marrying man ; the chief of Aku wanted me to marry one of his daughters, but I excused myself. Several girls in Melbourne set their caps for me, but I did not take a fancy to any of them. No, I'll never marry."

"John," said brother James, who had not uttered a word during the long narrative, that is a very good story of yours and no doubt it is all true ; and we are glad to see you back again, but I think it is time to go to bed."

There was one member of the Baker household who was not present when John told his adventures, nor was he aware of her existence. This was Mary Best the daughter of his old sweetheart, Lucy Holmes. This young lady had spent the day and evening at the house of a neighbor, and, returning home late had retired without seeing the long lost brother. So when John, while wandering about the premises next morning encountered Mary Best, who was the image