

him very well indeed, and his mother, too. She left Boston some time since to join him here. He is doing finely, and already has a great reputation as an artist. He has a most brilliant future before him. Gracie has certainly fallen among pleasant friends."

"We found her first," said Clive, proudly. "We met her in the cars."

"O, you did?" said Mr. Lee; and thereupon he made Clive tell him all about it. Clive did so, and told him, in addition, all about their flight from their uncle, their various wanderings, and final fate.

Mr. Lee laughed more than once, and at length said, —

"Well, boys, your Uncle Moses, with you, seems to me like a hen that has hatched a brood of ducks. After endless trouble with them, she sees them all take to the water."

"Yes," said Clive, "that's what we did. I suppose coming to Venice may be called taking to the water."

"Well," said Bob, "I took to the water in real earnest; but the police were too much for me."

"Yes," said Mr. Lee, "you've had your fling, and you've suffered for it. For the future you ought to learn to be more careful. Mind, I'm not giving you advice. Advice, by itself, is generally of very little use. Wisdom doesn't come by advice, but by experience, and you've had an experience which ought to teach you a good lesson."