

This was hitting the truth in earnest, for, although the boy only made a random assertion, the fact was that Dugald had really started from home without receiving full powers from Mrs. Dominion to take charge of her child. The preceptor, however, endeavoured to frighten Toby into obedience, by showing him a bogus letter, to the effect that he was to come home with Dugald, whether he liked it or not.

Now Toby was rather a smart boy for his age, and at once saw through this device on the part of Dugald, and from that moment determined that he would have nothing more to do with him. When, therefore, the preceptor tried again to open the door, Toby got quite mad and kicked up such pranks that he actually frightened the person he was living with, and, moreover, did some things which he had reason to regret afterwards. Dugald at last became utterly disgusted with the whole affair, and returned home angry with himself, Mrs. Dominion and Toby, all at the same time.

To tell the truth, Toby had some reason to kick up a fuss, for Mrs. Dominion, it seems, proposed keeping him rather too much under her thumb, which the youngster (having enjoyed a great deal of freedom from his birth) would not stand.

The end of all this was that Dugald was dismissed, and Toby received a promise from his mother that he would be properly cared for if he would come home ; at the same time the anxious parent sent the excited youngster a bottle of soothing syrup to calm his overtaxed nerves. This was all very good, but Mrs. Britannia now stepped