

Mr. Highflyer's horses, and in meddling with his sleigh robes. Oh, Dick! I feared groom Nettle would do you harm. Oh, my poor, dear, fatherless boy, my boy!" cried his mother, sobbing.

"Don't cry, mother," said Dick, putting his arms about her, "and don't fear. You remember Job said, 'That which I most feared has come upon me;' now, mother, I do not fear what groom Nettle, or any other man, can do unto me, for 'the Lord is on my side,' and I may say on the side of poor Spot and Petrel, too."

As the brave boy talked his mother dried her tears and became calm. There were a few minutes of silent thought, when Mrs. Niven said:

"I'll tell you what we'll do, Dick. Nobby is not hired out until this afternoon. I'll wake Molly, bath and dress her, give her some hot porridge, and then drive her over to her uncle's for the day. Afterwards, we shall engage Mr. Pinder to defend you. We have \$310.00 saved, and I dare say Mr. Pinder will not charge us over the \$10.00."

"He won't charge us anything, mother, because we won't retain him. A lawyer could only tell the truth, which he would first have to learn from me; then why not save the money and speak for myself? Yes, I'll be my own lawyer. And, mother, I'd rather uncle didn't know anything of this, until it's all over; it would only fidget and worry him, and I can plead my cause, the cause of the animals, better, if uncle isn't in court. And we are bound to win," added Dick, trying to cheer his mother. "I am sorry to be obliged to miss school this morning, but I must try and make it up. Now, mother, I'll go and hang out the clothes that are in the basket all ready for me, while you dress yourself and Molly. Then I'll hitch up Nobby and drive Molly over to uncle's, and afterwards come for you, mother, and we'll drive to court in state."

SLIDE 22.—SPOT AND PETREL WITH THEIR CARRIAGE FACING NOBBY IN HIS CART OUTSIDE THE COURT-HOUSE.

An hour and a quarter later in the morning, Spot and Petrel having drawn groom Nettle, as the accuser of the boy, Dick Niven, to the court-house, stood facing Nobby, as he patiently waited in his easy-fitting harness, for Dick and his mother, who were for the first time in their pure and upright lives within the walls of a court-room.

"I am ashamed to look you in the face, Nobby," said Petrel, frothing at the mouth from the tightly drawn bit. "Yes, Nobby, I am actually ashamed to look you in the face after the way in which our cruel groom has acted to your kind young master, Dick Niven."

"And well you may be ashamed, Petrel," said Nobby. "It's a monstrous piece of injustice to bring my dear master into court, just for