

believe that he is concerned in half the mischief that he gets credit for. Still you must remember that a little of the curb, just a little, is good for us all. It spoils a horse to be always tugging at his mouth, but he will go very badly if he does not feel that there is a hand on the reins. I have said the same thing to the squire. He spoils that boy of his, for whom, between ourselves, I have no great liking. The old man will have trouble with him before he is done, or I am greatly mistaken."

Nothing came of Mr. Allanby's visit. Mrs. Walsham told James that he had been there to remonstrate with her. "I do not want to stop you from going out sailing, Jim; but I wish you would give up your mischievous pranks, they only get you bad will and a bad name in the place. Many people here think that I am wrong in allowing you to associate so much with the fisherboys, and when you get into scrapes it enables them to impress upon me how right they were in their forecasts. I do not want my boy to be named in the same breath with those boys of Robson's, or young Peterson, or Blaine."

"But you know I have nothing to do with them, mother," James said indignantly. "They spend half their time about the public-house, and they do say that when Peterson has been out with that lurcher of his he has been seen coming back with his coat bulged out, and there is often a smell of hare round his father's cottage at supper-time. You know I wouldn't have anything to do with them."

"No, Jim, I am sure you would not; but if people mix up your name with theirs it is almost as bad for you as if you had. Unfortunately people are too apt not to distinguish between tricks which are really only the outcome of high spirit and a lack of something better to do, and real vice. Therefore, Jim, I say, keep yourself from mischief. I know that though you are out of doors so many hours of the day you really do get through a good deal of work; but