

buffed, and had returned to the attack with undaunted vigor. At last the matter reached a crisis one evening just a week before the Doctor's departure. The family group, consisting of the grey-haired grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Copeland, and Eric were having their coffee in the drawing-room after dinner, and Eric seized the opportunity to renew his request.

"Now, father," he said, his voice at first trembling with deep feeling, but growing firmer as he went on, and he saw they were all listening to him intently, "please listen to me. I am going to plead my case once more, and for the last time. Its just this way, next week you will be leaving here for Halifax, and you will not come back for three long years. When you do come back you mean to stay here, and not go away any more. This is, therefore, my last chance of going with you, and you know how much I want to see America. I am nearly seventeen now, and in three years more I will be twenty, and have to go to college, or start at learning some profession. If I am to see the world there will never be a better chance than now, and then again, just think of it! since you went out to India first we have never been more than six months together at a time, and that with two or three years between, while if I go out to Halifax with you, we will be together for three whole years, and that will make me so happy," and going up to his father, Eric laid a hand on either shoulder, looking straight into his eyes as he added, "Now, father, surely you cannot be so hard-hearted as to refuse me."

Dr. Copeland's face showed plainly the struggle that was going on in his mind. He had thought it best for Eric to remain in England, yet his heart craved to have him by his side, and it was in a very mechanical way that he protested.

"But your studies, Eric. How about them?"

"My studies!" cried Eric. "Why, what's to prevent my going on with them in Halifax as well as here? I can take my books out with me, and you can see that I keep up my work."

"Yes, Eric, but that's not all," interposed old Mr. Copeland, who was very anxious to keep Eric with him. "Just think of the risk. Who can tell what might happen to you away out there."

"But surely, grandfather, its no greater risk for me than it is for mother," answered Eric quickly, "and you're not afraid are you, mother?" he continued, turning to Mrs Copeland.

Poor Mrs. Copeland was verily in a strait betwixt

two. Her heart's desire was that Eric should accompany them, but she had yielded to the judgment of the other that it was best for him to remain behind. Thus suddenly appealed to by her son, a deep flush suffused her countenance, and her voice was very low and tremulous as she answered:

"No, I'm not afraid. I don't think there's any more risk there than here. God's care is always over us."

"There now" cried Eric, triumphantly "mother says there's nothing to be afraid of. Oh! father" and now the two arms were clasped tight around

troubled expression of countenance, he held out his hands in a gesture of appeal, saying in his most winning tone:

"Mother, you don't want to leave me behind, do you? Just tell father that you won't go without me."

Mrs. Copeland's lips moved, and she was evidently about to make some reply, when the Doctor broke in. "Almost thou persuadest me, Eric, but I won't give you a final answer now. We will talk the matter over to-night, and you shall hear our decision in the morning."

The truth of the matter was, he had already made up his mind, but did not wish to announce his change of plan without at least going through the form of consulting the two old people, and, if possible, bringing them around to agree with him.

Eric having left the room, Dr. Copeland stated that he had decided to take his son with him after all, and although the Squire and his wife argued long and earnestly against it, the Doctor held firm, so that they had at last to acquiesce.

When the next morning Eric was told that his desire would be granted, he fairly shouted for joy, and in token of his gratitude gave both his parents a hug worthy of one of the bears he hoped to see ere long.

The remainder of the week was filled with preparations for the voyage, and the long sojourn in the distant colony. Many were the trunks and boxes of clothing, books, pictures, and other things that had to be packed with greatest care, and their number would have been well nigh doubled if the travellers had consented to take all the jams, jellies, herbs, medicines, and other domestic comforts that the loving old couple pressed upon them with lavish hand, assuring them that they would get nothing of

the kind out in that wil l land of Indians and bears.

At length the day came when the Doctor with his wife and son must bid farewell to Oakdene. The parting was very tearful and trying. Old Mrs. Copeland seemed sorely depressed, and full of foreboding that the separation was final, although her son sought to cheer her by repeating that it was only for three years, which would soon slip by.

"Yes, yes," she murmured, with sorrowful shake of her snowy head. "The years will slip by, no doubt. But something tells me that when we meet again it will be up there," and her voice sank to a whisper as she lifted her thin white hand and pointed tremblingly skyward.



PRINCE AT ONCE GRAVELY LIFTED HIS RIGHT PAW, AND PLACED IT ON THE CAPTAIN'S HORN PALM.

the Doctor's neck, and the bright boyish face, burning with eager hopefulness, was pressed hard against his bronzed cheek, "if you love me, take me with you."

Dr. Copeland was deeply moved. As the day of his departure drew nearer he had found it harder to keep firm his resolution to leave his son behind. He was conscious that his defences were weakening, and that they were liable to give way before an attack of especial vigor. Such an attack Eric had just made, and inexperienced as he was, his natural penetration told him that he had gained an advantage which he lost no time in following up. Turning to his mother, who sat near by wearing a very