

lemonade and such like; but he had also a great partiality for fish, and it happened that he could not get a sufficient supply of that commodity without having to trespass on Mrs. Dominion's property. The old fellow used to think this very hard, and made a practice of slyly sending boats to the prohibited place; but whenever Mrs. Dominion caught these emissaries of Uncle Samuel at work, she, to use a vulgar phrase, "gobbled them up," fish, boats, and everything belonging to them.

This fishery question was a sore point with Uncle Samuel, so in order to try and get permission from Mrs. Dominion to fish on her property, he determined upon seeing what he could do with her Grandmother, and hinted to the old lady that he might be induced to allow the fishery privilege to take the place of an offset against his claim upon her, if she would agree to it.

Our readers will probably conclude that Uncle Samuel was making the most of his claim against Mrs. Britannia; but they must remember that the old fellow was noted for being pretty much of a sharper, and he was no doubt feeling his way to see how far he could go in the matter. The result was that Mrs. Britannia very foolishly allowed him to impress her with the idea that he was a much wronged man in the affair of the boats, and so worked upon her that actually, after a time, she began to think that she ought to really pay him something for his losses. At the same time, however, she did not forget the broken glass, stolen eggs, &c.

About this time Mrs. Dominion began to think seriously of bringing her youngest child Toby home from the