

of the fishermen; and he could swim, row, or handle a boat under sail in all weather as well or better than any lad in the village of his own age.

His disposition was a happy one, and he was a general favorite among the boatmen. He had not as yet made up his mind as to his future. His mother wanted him to follow his father's profession; he himself longed to go to sea, but he had promised his mother that he would never do so without her consent, and that consent he had no hope of obtaining.

The better-class people in the village shook their heads gravely over James Walsham, and prophesied no good things of him. They considered that he demeaned himself greatly by association with the fisherboys, and more than once he had fallen into disgrace with the more quiet-minded of the inhabitants by mischievous pranks. His reputation that way once established, every bit of mischief in the place which could not be clearly traced to some one else was put down to him, and as he was not one who would peach upon others to save himself, he was seldom in a position to prove his innocence.

The parson had once called upon Mrs. Walsham, and had talked to her gravely over her son's delinquencies, but his success had not been equal to his anticipations. Mrs. Walsham had stood up warmly for her son.

"The boy may get into mischief sometimes, Mr. Allanby, but it is the nature of boys to do so. James is a good boy, upright and honorable, and would not tell a lie under any consideration. What is he to do? If I could afford to send him to a good school it would be a different thing, but that you know I cannot do. From nine in the morning until five in the afternoon my time is occupied by teaching, and I cannot expect, nor do I wish, that he should sit moping indoors all day. He had far better be out in the boats with the fishermen than be hanging about the