

very good care to refrain from any open act of hostility towards her. He took other and, it must be said, meaner ways of annoying her, one of which was by presenting her with a large and rather visionary account which he declared she was in duty bound to pay. He also threw every obstacle in the way of her grand-children, Willie and Johnny, to harass and trouble them, and prevent them from enjoying that freedom from care which boys are generally so accustomed to. He even had the impudence to propose taking the care of her grand-children off her hands, on the plea that the benefit he would derive from their labour on his farm, as well as the advantage of having the control of their property, would serve as an off-set to the account which he held against her.

Now Mrs. Britannia was a proud old dame in her way, and although she could now and again act somewhat unjustly towards her own children and her children's children, she would on no account permit anyone else to interfere with them. She, therefore, told Samuel very distinctly that if he could prove his account to be a correct one, she would settle it, but she never would listen to a proposition from him to take charge of any of her children or grand-children.

Uncle Samuel took this rebuff very complacently, and in the meantime continued his scheming designs upon Bunsy and Sandy, until at last Mrs. Dominion almost gave up hope of seeing them under her roof.

Willie and Johnny about this time consented to receive their brothers on an equal footing in their mother's house, and at the same time Uncle Samuel received a quiet hint