

house and cook food, but that it took a person with brains to tempt the wily otter to its doom, or secure a good haul of halibut and herring.

So the care of the domestic *ménage* was left to Hooee, who did her best faithfully enough, under the guidance and direction of little Paul. And if Jim and Basil sighed occasionally over the want of charm and comfort in the home, they never even thought of controlling Maudie's actions, or of suggesting a change in her mode of life.

There was no denying the fact that she worked as hard as either of her brothers, or that she was perfectly happy and contented in her toil, never even wishing for luxuries or prettinesses, such as the hearts of most girls yearn after.

One reason for this content most probably lay in the fact that she had never known any other kind of life than her present hard-working existence, and being a healthy girl, with a happy, good-natured temperament, there was in her no disposition, either physical or mental, towards fretting or dissatisfaction.

But although where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise, the time of awakening to the discomforts of her position was very near for Maudie, if only she had known it.

There was no intuition of coming change to warn her, however, as she fished for herring from a boat high up the Inlet, on a sunny afternoon in early June.