

it even without the testimony of his father, whom I have seen !’

‘What, that scoundrel Dampier ! Surely he is not at liberty ?’

‘He was at liberty, but is now in safe custody again, and will not be free till Phil is of age, so that we need have no fears on his account.’

‘What shall you do with Phil, Norman ?’

‘Bring him home, when I’ve seen Jack and Dorothy nicely settled on the farm, and let his education be finished first of all. Come, Dorothy, don’t let us separate to-night without singing a hymn of praise, for we all have much to give thanks for.’

‘Whatever’s come to the master ?’ the servants said, on returning to the kitchen after evening prayers. ‘He might have had a fortune left him by the way he spoke ; and Miss Dorothy seems just as pleased.’

Cook had been kept to speak to her master after the other two had left the dining-room, and in the midst of their conjectures she came back to them, dropped into a chair, flung her apron over her head and sobbed and cried while trying to impart to the younger maids the good news she had just heard.

‘It isn’t likely you’ll care much about it,’ she managed to say between her sobs, ‘bein’ new to the