

boys she ought to show no partiality to one over the other, and therefore she told Willie and Johnny that they would have to share and share alike with Bunsy and Sandy. The twins at first did not like this arrangement; because, as they said, they had stuck more closely to their mother, and were moreover the oldest and biggest of the family, and accordingly had a right to the largest share of the family property.

Bunsy and Sandy happened, however, to reveal to their mother their predilections in favour of their uncle, and she knowing by experience his sly and grasping ways, and being also aware that he was in the habit of constantly visiting them, at once concluded that he had something to do with this strange desire on the part of her boys to keep away from home.

Now it may be well to mention here that Uncle Samuel and his sister Mrs. Britannia were not at the time on the best of terms, through some interference on her part in his private affairs. In fact the old lady had an unfortunate habit of frequently mixing herself up in other people's business, and she seldom received any credit for doing so. She was, however, a very powerful and influential dame for her age; and although folks used to call her "old womanish" in her ways, few of them cared about exciting her to anger, as she was very apt to use her fists to some purpose, when there was any real cause for doing so.

Uncle Samuel made a great ado about Mrs. Britannia having hindered him in settling a difficulty that had occurred in his household; but at the same time he took