

which made him able to get on better out there. When the works were completed, most of the hands were paid off, but Jim had been kept on until a year ago, when his master gave him a recommendation to an engineering firm in Glasgow, and he was in a very good situation there now. He said he had determined not to come home until he could show them that he had made a man of himself, after all, and was able to do something for them, if they needed it. He had been living in lodgings in Glasgow, but, as soon as he knew that he was likely to stay in his situation, he had come to Linwick to ask his father and mother and Phebe to go back and live with him; and, if they would, he would take a house, and they would all be comfortable together.

Skinny began to sob then, and Jim's bright brown eyes got all over mist again. There was no being 'all comfortable together' any more, for that once happy little family.

'But I didn't measure the wood wrong, Phebe,' Jim said, brushing the tears away with his sunburnt hand; 'no, that I didn't. I've figured it out to myself many and many a time, when I've been