

beat faster, and his whole frame trembled.

“ Well, I'm glad you agree with me ; so I hope you will be pleased at the news I am about to tell you.”

Arthur leaned against a chair which was near him and waited for his uncle to go on.

“ We think that if you were to have some employment, Herbie might take your place at school. I have written to Dr. Johnstone about it, and he is growing up so ignorant that it will be a good thing for him.”

“ He is not strong enough for school,” faltered Arthur.

“ Nonsense,” exclaimed Mrs. Dixon.

“ Well, Arthur, to come back to the point. A brother of mine is the captain of a merchantman, and he has been good enough to offer to take you in his vessel as an apprentice without any premium.”

Arthur's face got paler than ever, and his hands tightened their grasp on the chair.