

And the old man drew them into his arms and wept tears of joy.

"Then this is the secret of their being here," said Ernest joyfully.

"Yes," said Uncle Ambrose, when he had regained composure, "I had a stormy interview with Mrs. Dixon yesterday, and finally produced your father's letter in which he entreated me to befriend you, and I see I have just come in time to save Arthur from going to sea. And now, my boys, will you be the old man's children, will you cheer his lonely life?"

And they gladly answered "Yes."

"I cannot ask you to share my home, for I have not room for you; but I have made an arrangement to-day, which will, I hope, please you both. Mr. Leslie has consented that you, Herbert, shall remain as an inmate of his house, while Arthur continues to go to school with Ernest.

"And I shall have him in the holidays?" asked Herbie anxiously.