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some one who was very ill. I suppose he got home after I had had my supper and gone to sleep.

When they sat down to breakfast I went to the pretty bright rug before the fire and stretched myself out in great contentment. I had had a good supper, a good breakfast, a good bed; I had suddenly made a host of warm friends; and, instead of being only one dog of a dozen or so, I was, or thought I was, the only dog "entirely," as Mrs. Jimmy would have said. I am sometimes afraid that I shall never get rid of some of the expressions I learned of the Jimmys: it is so very hard to break one's self of one's first tricks and manners. I found after breakfast that there really was a number of other dogs on the place, but I was not at all sorry for this: it would have been stupid to have no dog-companions; and, besides, they were all large hunting- or watch- dogs: not one of them would have dared to lie at the foot of Helen's bed, as I did whenever I wished too.

Perhaps you will think that, as I was only a dog, I could not have any Christmas presents? If you think this, you were never more mistaken in your life. Madame gave me a very nice basket for my bed; Master, a house in the yard which was to be all my own, and which I might sleep in, if I liked, when the warm weather came; the sweet sister, a beautiful bow of ribbon for my neck, of which I was very proud, for I must confess that Snowball's red bow had made me feel a little jealous.