

was a hunting-dog, and had been regularly taught to hunt; but when that flock of partridges flew up almost under his very nose I don't blame him for running the way they flew to try to find them again. I have no doubt I should have acted just as he did if we had started up a rat and it had run away across the fields. I was tempted to go with him, but I suddenly remembered what Madame had said, and so I kept on with the girls. We had a lovely time at the spring, but I am afraid we stayed a little too long. I ran up the bank a little way after a muskrat, but I did not like to go far; and when I came back they had filled the bucket, and were starting for home. The sun went down all of a sudden while we were in the wood, and just as we came out, and had still a long field to go through, we met the peddler. He asked us to look at his ribbons and things, and when the sweet sister said we did not wish anything, and had no money with us if we did, he said, "But the pretty young ladies have each a watch;" and he stretched out his ugly hand for May's watch-chain.

May screamed and started to run, and he laughed, and began to run too. Now was my time to prove that, small as I was, I could be of some use. I did not say anything, for I did not wish to warn him, but I ran up behind him and set my teeth in the soft part of his leg just below his knee, until I do believe they nearly met. He gave a howl of rage and pain, and turned around at once. I began to run away from the house, and toward the