

rickyard. You need not laugh at that: I really had, for whenever one of the workmen sat down or leaned up against the rick, instead of doing his share of the work, I barked at him until he went to work again. I came home very hot and tired, and was thinking what a nice drink Sarah would give me out of Helen's basin, and how I would spend all the afternoon in that lovely cool, shady room taking a nap. The outside doors were all open, and I went up the front way, and down the passage which led to Helen's room, which was rather in the back part of the house. But there was a door in the passage before the one which opened into her room; and this I found shut, and as there seemed to be no one about to ask to open it for me, I went down again and round to the back stairs, fully expecting to find all the doors there open on such a warm day, but a good deal tired out by having to go up and down so much when I was so warm and tired. So, when I found that the back stairfoot door was shut too, I began to lose my temper; but just then Aunt Nancy came out of the kitchen, and I had no trouble in making her understand that I wished her to open the door. She refused to do it! Her voice sounded as if she were crying, and she kept putting her apron up to her eyes, but she said, "Honey, you isn't wanted up stairs jes' now. Come out wid aunty, and she'll give you de beautifulest bone."

This made me very angry indeed, and, instead of coming out with her, I began to scratch at the door with all my might and