

with her, as she had it in her power to make things very unpleasant for me if I did not. But when she saw me coming, although I tried to look as polite and conciliating as I possibly could, she gave a terrific growl, and I thought she would spring at me before I could utter a word of explanation. However, upon my representing to her that my intentions were most peaceful and friendly, she allowed me to speak, and I told her I had decided to make my home in the wood, having been driven from my rightful home by insufferable oppression and neglect. I did not think it worthwhile to go into particulars; and it proved quite unnecessary, for I had no sooner made the above statement than she grasped my paw warmly, and said that we were kindred souls. I did not feel very much flattered by this, but she went on to say that she too had left what had once been a happy home because every one was considered before herself.

“I lived under a system of espionage against which my proud soul revolted,” she said, lashing her sides and one of the kittens with her tail as she spoke. “My food was doled out to me in a miserable earthen dish which was only washed once a day, and if I had the good fortune to make my way into cellar or dairy, and helped myself from the abundance which was on every side, I was driven out with blows and kicks. I decided that submission to such treatment was abject cowardice, and here I am! My tyrants will never know who broke every window in the cellar the night of my departure. Ha! ha!” and she laughed in a way which