

nice, Jake, while I get him de bes' breakfus' he's had dis good while; and den he shall go up and tell Miss Helen all about it, so he shall."

I felt as if I had fallen out of the garret window. She had never even been worried about me! She did not know that my feelings had been hurt! There was no use in trying to tell her—I could not do it; but I felt sure my Helen would act very differently, and to her I would apologize.

Fortunately, Aunt Nancy left the kitchen while I was eating that royal breakfast, and when I had had all I could manage I gathered up a mouthful of bones and trotted off to the corncrib, where I found the kittens waiting patiently, as I had told them to do. I divided the bones among them, and they seemed very grateful, and said their mother had often told them how good cooked meat was, but they had never tasted any before. I told them I would come back at dinner-time and bring them some more, and that meanwhile, if they saw either rats or mice going in or out of the corncrib, I hoped they would catch them. This they promised to do, and I hurried back to have my hair combed and go up to Helen. Uncle Jake gave me an extra good combing for catching the rat, and then Aunt Nancy took me up herself, for she wanted to tell Helen about what I had done. By this time my stiffness was all gone, and I suppose I looked quite as usual, for Helen made Aunt Nancy put me down on the bed, and when she heard about the rat, she said, "My head ached so terribly last night that