

and I understood, from some little remark that she made, that she was afraid I did not quite trust her because she could not "fetch" and bark and do one or two other things which I knew how to do, I thought my truest self-denial would be to go as if nothing had happened. She seemed already to have forgotten my painful confession, so I said no more about that, but merely that if she really had no engagement for the afternoon I believed I would go, after all.

On my way down stairs it occurred to me that if I really did wish to deny myself as much as I thought I did, I could spend the time in instructing those kittens, as I had promised to do. I had already taken them a share of my dinner, and been pleased to find that between them they had caught a rat and a mouse. I had been wondering how I should let Aunt Nancy know about them, and bespeak her good will for them; and now I thought I saw a way. I ran to the corncrib to see whether they had eaten the rat and mouse, and, to my great joy, I found that they had not, and that they had caught two more mice: they told me that they had often wished to go hunting with their mother, but that she never would allow them to. As for eating the things they caught, they all agreed that nice cooked bones were much pleasanter eating than raw things with hair on them. This I was very much pleased to hear them say: it sounded like an evidence of refinement, and made me hopeful for their future. I explained to them that I was going to bring Aunt Nancy, and that they must