

Madame and Master had chosen the place for the new well: they said they would have it close by the kitchen, and then, Master said, some day, when the people paid him for curing them, there should be a nice shed built out from the kitchen over the well, so that nobody need get wet or cold going for water. I thought this was a very good plan indeed, and I did hope those mean people would hurry and pay, so that the shed could be built, it is such fun to have anything like that going on.

When the men went away it was nearly sunset. Madame said something about the children and covering the hole with boards, but there were no boards anywhere near. The men were coming very early in the morning, and Master said the children would be in bed so soon that he did not believe there was any danger. Madame looked a little uneasy, and called to Aunt Nancy to have an eye to the well until the children were safely in bed; and Aunt Nancy said she would, and as soon as her work was done she sat right down in the doorway.

The children were sent to bed a little earlier than usual that night, for Madame still felt uncomfortable about that hole. I suppose it was knowing this that set me to thinking about it: I cannot account for what I did in any other way. I was sitting with Helen, but the more I thought of the hole the more uneasy I felt. I knew the children had been put to bed, but once or twice that summer, when the evenings had been very warm, they had come down stairs in their little night-gowns and taken a