

he should set a hatching of goose-eggs now, right away, because the geese would have water so near the house, Uncle Jake grinned and bowed, and said, "Glad you's satisfied, Madame—Jake'd do a heap more'n that to satisfy you; and Jock, he done right smart of the digging. Sometimes I feel like that dog knowed more'n a dog has any right to know: he seems like he understands every word that's said to him, and quite a number that isn't."

Madame laughed, and said, "You needn't be uneasy, Uncle Jake: neither people nor dogs can know too much, if it's a good kind of knowledge and they make a good use of it; and I think Jock makes most excellent use of all he knows, dear little fellow!" and she laid her hand on my head.

I was so pleased, that I dashed right into our new pond, and brought out a small duck in my mouth. I didn't hurt it one bit, but I saw it worried Madame a little, though she didn't scold me, for she found the duck was all right, except for being rather frightened; so, although it was good fun, I did not do it again. Besides, I had to run down to the stream and wash myself off, for as yet our pond was rather muddy, though it settled after a while. When the children found out about it, they brought stones from the brook to make a border for it, and Roland helped Uncle Jake to make a sort of platform or step at one side, where we could stand to feed and watch them, for it was always rather muddy around the pond, especially after a rain. We brought duckweed and splatterdock from the brook, and planted them around the edge, and before the