

of it at home till I'm sure, and so he said nothing about it to father. You see, I couldn't give up that delightful clerkship," and Mr. Rob made a face—"it was my bread and butter—and so I've had to study when I could; but next winter I must drop it, for I shall attend lectures in the daytime as well as in the evening. I've been trying to get a start with some of the papers and magazines, for that is all I will have to depend on for a while. I've done pretty well, and have a prospect of doing still better, but I shall have to sail pretty close to the wind, I can tell you; and I'm thinking of giving up my room at Jimmy's and finding a cheaper place."

"You mustn't do that, Rob," said the sweet sister very earnestly; "that room is poor enough, dear knows, and it is such a comfort to us all to know that if you should be ill again Mrs. Jimmy would take care of you, as she did before, until we could get to you."

"What a goose!" said Mr. Rob, laughing. "Well, I'll not do it just yet, and not at all if I can help it."

We were back at the house by that time, and I thought again that if I had been a speaking creature they would not have let me hear this very interesting talk, for fear I should repeat it.

We had a beautiful white-topped cake, with a wreath of flowers around it, on the tea-table in front of Madame; and I did wish it would occur to them to keep *my* birthday like that. To be sure, they did not know exactly when it was, but any day would have done to keep, and they need not have made me quite so large a