

fortable place in the house. I thanked her warmly, and told her I knew Helen liked to have her on the bed, and that she never need feel that, because I was there, she was not wanted. I told her where I was going, and she was very much interested, and after a moment's hesitation told me that if I would look under the edge of the summer-house I would find the breast-bone of a chicken, which Aunt Nancy had given her when she really could not eat another mouthful. It was so nice that she had saved it for supper, but she would be glad, she said, if I would take it to that poor cat: it might help to convince her that a virtuous life was a happy one. I thought this very generous, and said so: we might just as well say the pleasant things we think.

So I set off, feeling really happy for the first time since Mr. Rob went, although it was not at all a pleasant day for a walk. The weather had changed very much since the afternoon we had the circus: I don't think anybody would have sat on a bench out of doors this afternoon to see the most wonderful tricks that ever were played. A high wind had carried off what leaves were left on the trees, a little snow had fallen, and it was really very cold.

I was casting about in my mind for some plan which would induce the poor Outlaw Cat to go and live with a respectable family, for I could not bear to think of how she would suffer all winter, but I could think of nothing. I knew she would not come to us, for she had intimated that she would not blight her children's prospects by going where they were. I was just passing a little