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At last, she rang the bell for the servant to clear away, and we put on our hats and went out.

We walked to the top of the long gravelled terrace in front of the houses, the bit of blue paper which Lucy said was the great sea, growing bigger and bigger at every step we took, but still it only looked like a very large piece of writing-paper after all. Then we crossed into a large open place where a band of musicians was playing, and ladies and gentlemen were sitting on benches, under the trees, and little boys and girls, dressed more grandly than I had ever seen little boys and girls dressed before, with ribbons and feathers and flowers and streamers, were skipping about in time to the music. I could not help staring at them, they looked so very grand, and I wondered what they thought about Lucy and me, for we only had holland frocks on, and brown straw hats with no feathers in them. Then we turned and began to go down a great many steps, and just then the music stopped, and I could hear a strange sound like the wind blowing very hard a long way off, only it could not be wind, for not a leaf was stirring. Aunt Mary told me it was the sea. Sometimes she said it made a great deal more noise than that, but