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did not tell him what we were going to do, though, for that would have spoiled all the fun. He unwound nearly half his ball, and sold it to us for the half-penny, and he lent us his knife to cut it into proper lengths, and we came back to our hollow bank and our old elm-tree, feeling as happy as two little queens.

We told each other we must work very hard, for the house had to be finished that night, and there was only a couple of hours now before tea-time. We found our task a great deal more difficult than we had expected. I believe the elm-tree branches knew we wanted to tie them down, just as the three calves knew when Mrs. Tubbs wanted to drive them home to bed, and they determined to give us as much trouble as they could. We had to fetch a rake to drag them low enough, and just when we thought we had got fairly hold of them, and Lucy was standing with the piece of string to fasten round them, up they would spring into the air with a caper and a flourish, and we had all the trouble over again. We were obliged to do everything by ourselves, too. We could not ask Tommy to help us, for if we had asked him he would have told Montem, and Montem would have told Mrs. Tubbs, and Mrs. Tubbs would have told aunt