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it, to sweep away all the leaves which we had knocked down and scattered about. He never stopped until the house was quite finished, and as neat and clean and pretty as could be. He did look so kind and good-tempered, and asked us a great many questions about aunt Mary, but when we told him the house was to be a secret until her birthday, he promised he would not say anything about it.

When he had done all he could to help us, and had put some stones down nicely and firmly to make a path over the beck, he took two silver threepenny pieces out of his pocket and gave one to each of us, to help to buy something for a feast. Then he jumped over to the other side, and was out of sight directly.

Oh! how delighted we were. I think we were two of the happiest little girls in the world. We did not know at all who the gentleman was, nor where he had come from; but that was not a bit of consequence. He had been very kind to us, and we were sure he must be good, because he liked our dear aunt Mary, and had been glad to work for her. Lucy said she thought she had