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for cups and plates. Then we set the chair for aunt Mary, and in front of it, on the table, we laid a nosegay of flowers, with the book-mark that I had made and a pincushion that Lucy had made, on each side of it.

When everything was quite ready, we ran away to the farm-house and washed our hands and faces, and brushed our hair, and went into the parlour to fetch aunt Mary. We told her she must shut her eyes, for we did not want her to know where she was going. So she shut them up quite fast, and Lucy and I took hold of her hands, one on each side, to lead her. We kept dancing about so, and jumping up and down, that I think we must almost have shaken her arms off. Sometimes I had to let her hand go and skip round and round and round, for I was so happy I could not walk quietly at all, and Lucy was obliged to do the same. When we both danced away at once, aunt Mary stood quite still with her eyes shut, until we came back to her. She never opened them at all, for she had promised not. When we were close to the little stream just opposite our summer-house, we said,—

‘Now, aunt Mary, you may open your eyes.’