

they brought down another shower of kisses, and Lucy and I were so happy that we had to skip over to the other side of the bank again and caper about there, for there was not room enough in the little house.

Aunt Mary asked if we had done it all ourselves. We said that we had meant to do it all, but it was a great deal harder work than we expected, and we were very nearly thinking we should never be able to manage it, but a gentleman happened to be going past, and asked us what we were doing; and when he found we were making a summer-house for aunt Mary, he said he would come across and help us.

‘Wasn’t it funny, aunt Mary,’ said Lucy, ‘that he should just happen to come past, then? I don’t know who he was, but I think we saw him at the children’s treat, and he said he knew you very well. I wonder who it could be. I am sure he must have been very good, though, because he spoke so nicely about you.’

Aunt Mary did not say anything, but a rosy colour came into her face which made her look prettier than ever, and she stooped down very low