

village that Jim was missing, the neighbours went far and near after him, for they all liked him, he was so merry and good-looking. But he never came back no more, and mother says he's dead long ago, or we should have heard tell of him.'

Poor little Skinny's lip had often trembled whilst she was telling us this sad story, and now ever so many tears came splashing down into the pail of water, but she went on scrubbing and scouring as diligently as ever.

'Father was always different after that,' she said. 'I often heard mother say he didn't want people to know what a deal he thought about Jim, and so he never would ask no questions, nor make as if he was very unhappy about him; but many's the night, mother says, he never slept a wink, and always after dark, if he heard a step on the walk, his hand would shake, and he would go all over trembling. He didn't live very long after that, though. One day he went to the woods as us'l, to see the men cut some timber down, and a big branch fell on him, and he was brought home with his leg broke and some of his ribs forced in. The Squire paid for a doctor, and mother she nursed him night and day, but he died just a