

Skinny began to come to us, but the blankets made her worse than ever. She just looked up from her washing-tub, and stripped the suds off her arms, and said I needn't have run so fast to tell her that. Baby sisters and baby brothers, too, were plenty enough, and maybe I shouldn't be so keen by-and-by to tell people what a treasure I had got, for I should have my nose put of joint now, see if I shouldn't. And then she gave a great rude laugh, and began to splash about amongst her suds again.

I felt my nose, but it was just the same as usual; however, I thought I had better go and ask aunt Mary if anything was going to be the matter with it. She asked me who I had been talking to, and what had been said to me, and when I told her about Mrs. Tubbs, she looked very much displeased. I think I had never seen her so displeased before, and she said I was never to go and talk to Mrs. Tubbs again, whilst we remained at the farm-house, and, if ever she began to speak to me about my little sister, I was to go away directly. And I noticed after that, she was always very quiet and dignified when she had occasion to say anything to the ill-tempered woman.