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promised us one as soon as Callie was able to enjoy it, and, as she was three years and a half old now, we thought we might have it; but of course she was not to know anything about what we were doing until the night of the party. It was to be a surprise for her.

The gentleman who had helped us to make our little summer-house under the elm-tree was living at Abbotsbury now, and very often came to see us. Aunt Mary always seemed very pleased to see him, but I did not wonder at that, for he was so nice and kind to everybody. His name was Mr. Hugh Ballantyne, and he was Mrs. Aidel's brother. I think he was the manager of the Abbotsbury bank, but I am not quite sure. When he knew that we were going to have a Christmas-tree, he said he would help us, for he had been in Germany, and he knew what sorts of toys the little boys and girls there had for their Christmas-trees. He made us some very pretty ornaments, Christingles, I think he called them, to hang to the branches. He got a thick quill and cut it down into very thin strips, and on the end of each strip he stuck a raisin, so when you held the quill up, they