

drooped all round like a fountain. Then he put a little green or crimson wax-taper into the middle of the quill, and put the quill into an orange, and lighted the taper. It did look so pretty. Of course, when the taper had burnt out, we were to eat the raisins and the orange. Then he cut the funniest little men and women out of cardboard, and painted them and fastened strings to their arms and legs, so that they danced about like the tumblers in the market-place. And he made harlequins out of corks, and put silk jerkins on them, and caps with red feathers, and set them upon wires, and they turned head over heels and did all sorts of antics, just as if they had been alive. Aunt Mary dressed dolls and made sweetmeat purses, and papa sent for a case of toys all the way from London, and mamma made us some beautiful ornaments of coloured paper, so that we expected our tree to look very pretty indeed.

We all of us were to give presents to each other. My present to Callie was a little white kitten whose head came off, and the inside was full of bon-bons. I thought she would like it better if it was covered with something soft, instead of the hard white leather outside, so mamma gave me some swansdown,