

your mistress going to do to reward you?"

"I am to have a silver collar," said Thomas soberly, "which I know I shall hate. Cats should never have collars. They prevent us from going into out-of-the-way places."

"Birds' nests, for example," said Bronze-Wing, in his rough voice. "Have you heard the latest thing about cats, Thomas—I mean the latest plan to keep them from catching birds?"

"No, I haven't," said Thomas shortly.