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Accordingly when Sergeant Wilks called on Monday morning for his answer Mrs. Walsham told him that she had decided to accept his offer.

"You are aware how I am placed," she said, "and that I cannot give her the care and time which I could wish, and which she ought to have for such a liberal payment as you propose; but you know that beforehand, and you see that for two years' payments I could not sacrifice my school connection, which I should have to do if I gave her the time I should wish."

"I understand, madam," he said, "and I am grateful to you for consenting to take her. She is getting too old now to wander about with me, and since the narrow escape she had last time I was here I have felt anxious whenever she was out of my sight. It would not suit me to put her in a farm-house. I want her to learn to speak nicely, and I have done my best to teach her; but if she went to a farm-house she would be picking up all sorts of country words, and I want her to talk like a little lady. So that is settled, ma'am. I am going on to Exeter from here, and shall get her a stock of clothes there, and will bring her back next Saturday. Will it suit you to take her then?"

Mrs. Walsham said that would suit very well; and an hour later the sergeant set out from Sidmouth with his box, Aggie trotting alongside talking continuously.

"But why am I to stop with that lady, grampa, and not to go about with you any more? I shan't like it. I like going about, though I get so tired sometimes when you are showing the pictures, and I like being with you. It isn't 'cause I have been naughty, is it? 'cause I fell out of the boat into the water? I won't never get into a boat again, and I didn't mean to fall out, you know."

"No, Aggie, it's not that," the sergeant said. "You are always a good girl—at least, not always, because sometimes you get into passions, you know. Still, altogether you are