

always the same : " You can easily obtain a situation if you put your baby to board ; no one will take you with him."

I put my aunt's letter in the post office.

---

It was returned back to me ; it had been refused by my aunt.

---

I was sitting on a low stool by the cradle, my back to the bed, the candle placed on a chair in front of my stool ; on the same chair lay my returned letter, giving rise to bitter thoughts almost too painful to be borne ; my weary fingers were rather trying to work than working ; they seemed to be paralyzed with fatigue, and trembled to the very points.

Maida lay stretched at full length by my side ; I leaned back on my bed that I might rest for a few minutes, and while doing so laid my hand on Maida's side ; I wondered if it could grow thinner.

As I sat thus there was a hushed noise of several voices talking below stairs ; the noise was now heard on the second flat, if noise it might be called, which was more the sound of people walking about and talking in suppressed tones ; at last footsteps ascended to the attic ; a tap at the door. Two men entered. They had been sent by the landlord to arrest the furniture ; they must take a list of what was in the room ; the poor woman herself was there, pale as ashes ; I owed her fifty shillings ; I too had helped to bring this evil about, yet she never uttered a single word of reproach.

Maida growled at the men, and as they finished their inventory followed them from the room ; one of the men patted her saying, " She is a valuable dog ; I have seen such as her sold for ten pounds." As he spoke Mrs. Wilson clasped her hands and looked in my face ; her debt was ten pounds ; in a