

perhaps a quarter of a mile in width, but cost us two long hours of some such labor as Satan's when, with "head, hands, wings and feet," he made his earthward way through chaos. This was my first acquaintance with the strange ruin wrought by an avalanche. It was evident that men of our stride were never meant to walk in its path.

Somewhat higher up a great bank of sullied snow from last winter's slide still filled the gorge, bridging with its wide dripping arch the echoing stream below.

There are many such tracks among the Selkirks down which snow torrents find their way year after year. Some are broad flood grounds of the winter snows which change their course from time to time. Others are narrow and definite, steep-banked canals cut through the forest and following the same gorge or cañon year after year. From the bottom of these tree-walled channels nothing can be seen but a strip of sky, an inverted river of grey cloud or blue ether. The brook following the gorge is often dammed or embanked with logs and gravel, or bridged in all sorts of adventurous ways.

The snow brought down by slides may last far through the summer, or even from year to year till covered with earth and debris. Vegetation is curiously delayed near these slowly melting masses of snow. Ferns hopefully unroll their fluffy green crosiers when all others are casting their brown spores. Belated Scotchcaps and other berry bushes flaunt in full bloom when their neighbors have long ago dropped their ripe fruit.

Geologists have followed step by step the work of the slow-footed glacier, but have almost ignored the swift snow torrent of the avalanche. There are many glaciers creeping down the ravines of the Selkirks, but as agencies of change they are probably far surpassed by the snowslides, which overthrow forests, dam up rivers, and form temporary lakes that burst and flood the lowlands. They bring down with them vast amounts of rock and debris, changing the whole face of the valleys invaded.

Few things so powerfully impress the imagination as an