

water, causing great anxiety to the section men, who watched night and day, vainly endeavouring to make an escape for the water. On Sunday morning, very early, part of the embankment was carried away, leaving the rails and sleepers suspended in mid-air, and the water triumphed.

The unexpected calamity caused great excitement among our young people, whose imaginations at once conceived the possibility of being starved, and hindered from getting away for Christmas. As many other mountains of trouble turn out to be only mole-hills, so these magnified calamities melted away. A large gang of workmen soon restored order, and in four days, a procession of delayed passenger trains, passed safely over the scene of disaster.

Yale Creek was a magnificent sight after the rains, the bridge rocked with the force of the water, as it rushed over the huge boulders, its waves crested with foam and spray, like a tempest-tossed ocean; how quickly the forces of nature rise into a grandeur that inspires man with awe.

DECEMBER.—Tired of reading of the weather? Well, never mind, it is not often that the weather gives us so much to think of, and in this country everything is on such a grand scale, that one must notice it. We began this month with severe frost, the mercury falling to zero. We shivered a little, but outside there was much to admire. To those who climbed up behind the house, up slippery banks of ice, the reward was great, it was like fairy-land. The masses of water, with white, fleecy spray, rushing down the fall, between high walls of ice, the trees bending under the weight of ice-crystals, and beneath and all around, ice, in lovely patterns of every description, pendants, and fringes of lace. Some of it was so very thin and delicate, and in the sunshine it was perfect. Looking at it, we forgot all the damage this beautiful sight meant to us, viz, that the water supply was frozen, from one source anyhow. Until the holidays, we anxiously watched pipes and taps!

DECEMBER, 6th.—St. Nicholas provided us with the usual fun, and a visit from Santa Claus, who will always find All Hallows School ready to relieve him of some of his onerous Christmas duties, it is better to be too early than too late, when it is a matter of giving and receiving presents.

CHRISTMAS.—This happy and beautiful Festival was spent much in the same way as other years, but we had a visitor from Japan, who was glad to rest and keep this holy season with us, on