

capital cook. She soon boiled the water, made the tea, and very soon we sat down to lunch. Then we were off again to scramble where we liked over the mountains and with the whole afternoon before us. Soon we scattered, and four of us met on the trail that led to the Silver Mines, so we thought we would keep together and follow that trail. It led us over some steep places, over places where violets and lilies grew, over old fallen trees, until at last it brought us out before the miners' old cabin, and we wondered if any one was there. We saw the trail had been repaired in various places, and a pick and shovel were lying around.

Therese was afraid of a dog we heard in the distance, so I volunteered to lead, although I must confess I did not feel very brave. It was so far away and so long. We came to an ancient bridge, which we crossed one by one, in case it would not bear our weight all together, and we did not want a cold bath, although the brook beneath looked so fresh and clear, its banks were covered with moss and flowers. Therese found "the lady's slipper," which is very rare. An orchid, I think, they call it.

We came out by a great big stump which had been rooted up and turned the wrong way, throwing its roots into the air instead of into the ground. Here we resolved to turn back, because the sun was getting low. So back to Miss Maine and the little ones we turned, and found to our sorrow that it was only half past three. We might have gone up so much farther.

We talked about what we saw, and what we did, altogether about everything; we talked all at once, until Miss Maine had to say, "Hush, children, you deafen me."

We waited by Yale Creek for some of our missing companions and reached home in time for dinner.

Such holidays are better than anything I know, except coasting in the winter.

SOPHIE.

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