

impossible to see more than a few feet before them.

"What can we do, Mark? It will be impossible to send the children home in such weather."

"It won't last for long at this rate, sir. It will pass if we can keep them back."

"Well, we must do what we can. If we look out for the mail stage we may pack a few of them off in that way, and I must take the children to the creek, and you could take those that go your way. But I don't think we can get away at all if this goes on; it will soon be too deep for walking in."

"Could you not think of something to tell us, sir, that would keep them all quiet till the storm passes? It isn't likely to last so early in the season."

"Well," said Mr. Emerson, after a minute's thought, "one thing is certain. You could not any of you leave at present, so you must make yourselves as happy as you can. Perhaps some of the parents of the children may fetch them."

"Could you not think of something to tell us, whilst we are waiting?" said Mark again.