

After four o'clock some time we managed to get the little girls to go back to bed again and sleep for the remaining three hours, for they all declared they'd all be up sharp at seven to sing our early Christmas carols, and so they were.

What Has Happened in the Holidays.

I shall try and tell, as best I can, all we did during our Christmas holidays—our woes and joys.

On Christmas Eve we were busy with our usual Christmas decorations; then there was the Midnight Celebration.

Our Christmas breakfast table was, of course, piled with presents, as all parcels and letters were kept till Christmas morning, and there was great excitement. So excited was everybody no one wanted to touch any breakfast.

During the night it must have snowed very heavily, for it was indeed quite deep.

At half-past one we had our usual Christmas dinner, at which everyone in the house was present.

Saturday we had our beautiful tree, but I must not stop to tell all about it and the lovely presents we got.

After that Saturday it got very cold, and each day was colder than the last. During the first three weeks after Christmas we got some lovely sleigh-riding, and took much pains in freezing our rink. Those were our perfect days; we were outside from the time we finished our various bits of work till tea time, and when there was good moonlight we stayed out till nine.

But, alas! the weather got colder and colder. We had never before known what a really cold winter was, so of course were not prepared for such weather. Even our sleigh-riding had to stop, as no one felt inclined to try going outside after once running down a cold passage.

In the pantry our milk, bread, etc., all froze, but our first water trials began in the play-room.

One morning when I came down to do the play-room I lit a big fire and never thought anything would happen. The pipes in the stove got red hot, and so I turned on the tap that empties the boiler just behind the stove, and steam began to come out and there was a funny noise going on inside the boiler, and then a little piece of the boiler flew off and water came squirting out as fast as it possibly could. So I put some of the stuff the little girls made models with, and ran off to tell Sister, but I met Maria, and she helped me to put the fire out, and we had to get oil stoves