

sparkling burns, helping their parents in their work, and enjoying themselves greatly.

North and south of the school-house stretched a long, winding road, with a snake fence on each side, in many spots broken down by the winter snows, and never repaired since. Beyond this snake fence extended what had once been a fine pine forest ; now but little was left of its ancient beauty : here and there a massive fir stood up straight and strong, but round it charred, withered stumps showed what had been the cause of the destruction of the bush, and where but a few years before fire had raged in all its awful splendour, maples were springing thickly, whilst at their roots strawberry and raspberry plants and partridge berries flourished in rank luxuriance.

Away to the south, through the vista of trees and leafless trunks, you could see the gleam of blue water, and beyond, the purple hues of a mountain range. It was the long, river-like course of Lake Nemphrita, and the mountains were the Eagle's Nest and Bear, and the Pass of Tombol, famous for its beauty ; but it was more than twenty miles away. There was a piece of