

July

Friday 29

cloudy

sunshine

or rain

I had scarcely been in bed a few hours when I got up again at 6-30 a.m. to ascertain what the arrangements were for going out to Kakabeka Falls as up to last evening I was yet dependent on so many ifs and ands. I went to Mr. Bishop's, he was still in bed but Mrs. B. had just arisen. He soon made his appearance, then the question was "weather" as the clouds were heavy & threatening and they felt rather disinclined to go but I persuaded us rain for the day, rather reluctantly, I think, they decided to go. - When Dr. Lehnman got up he shook his head at the sky, the meteorological office here replied adversely, Mr. Murdoch said to me "You are foolish to go," "Look at the clouds on the horizon in the east" I replied "I think we are safe to go." Finally at ten o'clock four conveyances started. Our carriage contained Mr. & Mrs. Lehnman, Marie Man & me. We were in good spirits and thereby the occasional rough roads gave us matter for merriment rather than otherwise. Marie thought the fast driving and whipping of the horses execrable - the Dr. would quietly say "Das ist nichte." - The most of the country passed over is rather level and covered with second growth poplar & Asuncion & brush with numerous burnt stumps not presenting a picturesque appearance. Fourteen miles out we crossed the railway at Merrill's station. Beyond this we see hills or low mountains to the southeast, beyond the Kamiviski-quia, where are situated the silver mines - Rabbit Mt - Beaver Porcupine - Badger are now being worked. Arriving at the edge of a steep hill the driver directs our attention to a cloud of mist - there are the falls - heads, and five minutes later we were at the stopping place, there are no houses or conveniences here, everything is still in a state of nature. It was after one o'clock and all were hungry, so that evening had first to be attended to. I made the tea, which came so natural to me. - The ladies had well provided for tables and we all enjoyed our open air meal. Now to the falls; a somewhat wet path led the way.

These minutes walk and we are at the brink hearing & seeing the rushing humbling foaming and splashing water. The first impression is one of bewilderment. Each change of the observer's position unfolds new beauties and fresh grandeur. To heighten the scene, the sun for the first time today bursts through the heavy cloud barriers and now the amber colored waters in variegated shades glitter & pearl in the bright light. As it descends over the ledges and precipice of 130 ft it throws up an immense volume of mist in fact rain, being far denser than that of Niagara. In beauty, those of us who knew Niagara considered Katakabeka superior, while the former of course in majestic grandeur stands unrivalled in the world. — When my memory reverts to the scenes of '85 to Muckunamak Falls - 800 ft high, & I ask for a comparison, I find it is almost impossible, for dissimilar objects cannot be compared, yet I will make an allegorical allusion — At Niagara a shrine to Jupiter as majestic patron would be appropriate, Katakabeka would have one to Apollo indicative of life and vigor and youth, while Muckunamak would be wrapped in beauty and mildness & grace.

— The dense arising mist partially hid the opposite side. I had taken my camera with me and took four views or two of which were the groups of our party.

— The rock formation seems to be a ferruginous slaty limestone lying mostly conformably. For quite a distance the Kaminiskiquia flows through a gorge, beyond which it widens and has more sloping banks.

Our time was too limited to make a more extended tour along the river, and besides we felt already well repaid for our 20 mile ride. Shortly after 2 P.M. we began our return journey, our lively chatting being interspersed with liquid refreshments. We had scarcely reached Port Arthur when it began raining and all felt thankful that we were so fortunate with the weather. — It raining I could not observe

thought, for which I was rather thankful as I got little sleep last night. —

Saturday 30
fine
warmer

Mr. Zimmerman, Mrs. Lehen, Marie & Maa walked to Current river, and it being warm were somewhat exhausted when they returned. — In the evening the above Mr. Lehen & I went out for a row on the lake, and it would have been most injurious had Mrs L. not placed so much fault with her husband's rowing, whereby he aggravated the cause. — I obtained tonight. My wire No. 2 was down so I had to be switched onto another one which caused some delay. I had hoped to finish Lucifere work tonight but being a poor or bad night in Winnipeg I will have to take another night.

Sunday 31
fine

In afternoon sealed & copied last night's work, shortly after going to the observatory in the evening a heavy thunderstorm began; not having a lightning arrester on my wires the display of the electric fluid was rather too vivid for me, besides I could not observe so I returned to the hotel. The pain passed and the thunder rolled. Two flashes and clashes were co-incident and very sharp and short both Maria & me. —

August
Monday 1

We went to the wharf in the morning to see the arrival of Geo. Patterson and at noon Harry returned from Winnipeg so that we have Preston well represented at present in Port Arthur. Marie has had pleasant companions in Mrs. Lehen & Mrs. Zimmerman in the hotel, especially the latter who has become quite attached to her and regrets not having known her so well when she went to Winnipeg with her husband (Capt of C.P.R.) in his private car, otherwise she would have asked her to come along. In the afternoon Marie, Maa & I went out for a row, we visited the breakwater and then rowed to the