

and says "audder one" and carries it to the flame of the lamp. — For recreation I sometimes speak French with him, he correcting me in any mistakes I may make. — It is a peculiarity that man finds difficulty in pronouncing certain sounds of a foreign language. Neither the Chinaman nor Pacific Coast Indian can pronounce the letters *f* or *r*, for the former they use *p*, for the latter *l* if it is at the beginning of a word and when final - *ah* - . The Frenchman & German have difficulty in giving the English *th* sound, using therefore *d* or *t*; again the French & English stumble at the German *ch*. — I had some amusing experiments with Arthur the night operator. I requested him to say "wasps' nest" but his effort invariably resulted in "waspis nest" or "wappis nest." When he attempted to say "Ich pfan Dief" he at first failed completely in the *ch* sound, finally he could say *ich* passably well but could not immediately thereafter say *Dieh*, so that the nearest approach he made to the above sentence was "Ich pfan Diek" - in meaning "somewhat" different from that intended. —

I received several letters from home tonight & felt happy. My mail service is very irregular.

Sunday 25
Pleasant
cloudy

Marc Birthday
Æ13

Gladly would I be at home today to assist at the festivities. It is a nice custom of us Germans annually to commemorate the natal day of each one in the family. What recollections all sweeter & dearer than those of a happy childhood, and the love which children afterwards show grow up bear to their parents is in direct proportion to the happiness prepared for them in their childhood. — It has ever been my aim to

make the home of my boys such that their hearts
will hereafter turn to the same with joy and
gratitude. Not that the home is to be the scene of
continued pleasures. They must learn to work,
that work is the highest honor, and above all they must
learn duty. In my efforts I am ably assisted
by my good wife to whom in fact falls by far
the greater share, though my absence from home,
of the care of the children and their guidance.

I presented to Alan two sketching pads
one for pencil the other for water colors, as he
shows a decided aptitude for such work.

Busy writing, studying &c.

Monday 26 Busy with electricity.

very cloudy
Tuesday 27 Busy with electricity & self improved problems.
very cloudy Altho' I employ my enforced leisure time (waiting for
Duking to arrive at Winnipeg) yet I much prefer my
work proper particularly as there is a case of typhoid fever
here and besides the board in the section house leaves
much to be desired, and hence am anxious to get away.

Wednesday 28 For some evenings past there have been some very
fine vivid displays of aurora borealis, commencing about
washed 7-30 P.M. in the north on the horizon & spreading laterally
& upwards. Telegraph lines worked badly unless by con-
tinuous metallic connection, made at the terminal station
by connecting two lines & taking off the ground wires. —

When studying electro-magnets, their capacity for magnet-
ism it reminds me of human capabilities, especially my own.
Up to a certain limit I readily absorb & to speak the process
of reasoning be it in science or mathematics, this is when
approaching my "maximum," after that limit I have to
apply myself rigidly and by perseverance can absorb
more, but unless this process is repeated several times
I am apt to lose much of this additional absorption,