

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 am plying 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,

September unless I practically do work which involves the process of reasoning, in making experiments or the like, which is the best aid to memory.

Thursday 29  
fine  
very warm

The day was almost unaccountably warm, and the black flies decidedly so. — The air is somewhat hazy, hazy, showing that there are bushfires somewhere.

I erected a stand outside of the observatory for mounting the transit telescope for sweeping the heavens, especially for examining Saturn.

Towards evening I got a telegram from Clukey who is en route to meet him for conversation re work.

At midnight I left on a freight train for Rat Portage. The night was glorious under the bright moon and I enjoyed riding "upstairs" in the caboose with the conductor C. W. Risken, and seeing the huge snake of cars winding around the numerous curves, through rock cuts & tunnels, skirting picturesque lakes dotted with evergreen islands, or crossing a treacherous muskeg. — We passed the stacks of 375 cords of wood which were consumed by encroaching bush fires. Having to wait an hour & a half at Rat Portage and feeling hungry I went to the Hilliard Hotel and regaled myself with a piece of bread & butter & a glass of beer. When the train arrived I found W. T. King sound asleep in bed although he afterwards said he had gone to bed early in order to awake in time. We chatted over our work present & future, especially relative to my going to British Columbia next spring to observe moon culminations for determining the 124° meridian or boundaries of Alaska in conjunction with Gilvie who is on the Yukon. Unfortunately some of our administrative affairs in the Department are not what they should be, owing to the undetermined stand assumed by Mr. Deville Surveyor General. As an example; — King tells me that he (Mr. D.) doesn't know whether he will have the observatory at Kalamazoo connected with the meridian of the North West Angle — date of the wood as the