

February

Thursday 16

-20° F. morn.

Cold

Attended examinations. In evening Major Lobbs & I attended the Philharmonic concert. We were obliged for lack of room to go to the gallery. The production was Haydn's Oratorio "Creative". A soloist was a Mrs. Humphrey-Allen of Boston, she had a flexible voice & sang well. The ~~other~~ bass & tenor soloists did not merit much favor from me, altho' they were frequently applauded by the audience; to me much of their singing was wearisome, most decidedly so the recitative part. The chorus was good, but the string music I enjoyed better. - During the performance a gentleman & lady near us started to go out, but after going a few steps the lady fainter, the man raised her and dragged her out like a bag of flour to the head of the stairs where he laid her against the wall and put some snow on her face, he had pulled off the bonnet, after a short time she began to regain consciousness, when the man attempted to re-adjust the bonnet in its proper place - a number of us looking at him, - he got it on his side first, - upside down - ribbons in front & buttons behind - in short the man was in a bad, but the most interesting part has yet to be told, and it is this, when the woman in her corner felt this fussing & messing about with her precious bonnet she was instantly restored to consciousness & put her hands to her head and in a jiffy made the necessary adjustments to the headgear. - They then walked down stairs & off. Poor man

Friday 17

pleasant

Attended examinations. We had originally 3 preliminary candidates, 3 invited, 6 final & one for D.T., of the 1st & 2nd one in each part & today 3 of the final were notified that it was useless for them to proceed any further.

In the evening J. Garden, Col. Heckman, Major Dr. Gibbon, Wadsworth (last two Indian agents) & I were together for some time chatting. Garden returns tonight to British Columbia.

Saturday 18
pleasant

Attended the examinations. Today the candidate Hawick for the higher examination gave up the ghost, saying that he was ^{not} sufficiently well prepared for it.

Before dinner King, Webb & I chatted on scientific matters at the Ordepa. Upon invitation, Col. Wadsworth Indian agent dined with me this evening, - he, Major Webb & I together. - The people are expecting to come to Ottawa for the opening of parliament next Thursday.

Sunday 19
cloudy

I remained in the house all day, reading etc. In the evening Mr Webb & I dined to J. Cayton and spent a pleasant evening till 10-30 P.M. Returning we sat in my room smoking & chatting till 1 A.M. Mr W. relating to me many incidents of the Red River rebellion in 1869 with which he was intimately connected at its inception, he having been stopped by Riel proceeding with his gunnery. - Shortly afterwards he ^(Webb) organized three volunteer companies by instructions from Col. Dennis (Dunsmuir's General) who was also in the country (Dollgarry). -

Monday 20
rising
mild

Today we put the remaining two candidates at practical surveying, neither were very proficient Messrs. Buryall being very slow & G. White rather careless. - In the evening I met Mr. Reubens chief Engineer of the Murray Canal, later a.c. Webb & I went to hear "Eli Perkins" on the "Philosophy of wit & humor." The lecture was not of a very high standard, altho' besides some laughable remarks