

own inclinations. He has a habit when crossing the rude bridges made of poles of striking the side stringer with the cast wheel and glancing off into the bridge but once today he ran full ~~fell~~ down the hill, at the same time another pony ran down from the opposite side, they met and collided at the bridge displacing the side stringer or tie pole and pushing Blackie with his cart over the bridge looping between the displaced stringer and bridge. All was extricated and fortunately nothing was broken. A long tedious walk till sundown brought us to a half-bred habitation. Our camp ground was so wet that with every step water oozed out of the ground. ~

Saturday 30
Cloudy
afternoon fine

Six all. found us on the road or more correctly speaking in the water, worse & worse the trail got, in fact we didn't travel on the trail but floundered through willows and water; now & then one of the horses would run into a tree if the trees were less than two inches it would be pulled down otherwise the cart would have to be shoved back, the ponies enjoyed passing over willows for the branches would brush some of the flies off. Many a time I'd hold my breath when one wheel of some cart would catch stump or brush and raise it, showing the centre of gravity into an unenviable position for me to look at. At Black's house we halted for dinner after having just passed over the worst of all the road. ~ Hearing Edmonton we saw some fencing & plow lines but of the little the most was apparently abandoned. - Now that we are virtually at Edmonton I must say that I have been sadly disappointed with the County adjoining it as described to me by acquaintances - Pearce - King - Simpson &c. - Although this is an exceptionally wet season - notes here every year there is something exceptional turning up - yet a dry season does not remove the nuisance of willows which cover the open land. Some woods there are none, the poplar occurring in bluffs and here and there the slender spruce rears its head above the aspen. - When within a few miles of Edmonton I drove ahead. The deep broad valley of the North Saskatchewan as seen from the South Park is impressive & very picturesque. A ferry on a will

came across us across. Immediately upon the north bank is the Keelson Bay Post and police barracks. - I immediately looked up my place for observation, I invited Mr. Young the H.B.C. officer in charge to return I had a letter of introduction and then commenced fixing my camp, the carts having arrived in the mean time. By 10-30 AM, Mr. Macara & I had the three tents up & things in fair shape. I am going to have him cook for me until a regular cook can be obtained. I did not at first intend to have a cook here, but Mr. Macara says that he did not come out for that & besides it is a thankless job, altho' he is willing to do it if I so order it. - Why I didn't want a cook here is that there is not enough work for him, for Mr. Macara there is not enough of work as operator & assistant, and thus I'd have too much idleness about me, which I am greatly averse to. -

July
Monday 1
fine
light shower

A good bath was the first work after arising. After breakfast (near noon) I called on Mrs. Harding to deliver a letter from her husband. She was at church but I found Miss Harding in. Busy writing. In afternoon called on Mr. Taylor re telephone line. I found him at Dr. Wilson where there was quite a gathering celebrating yesterday's election for the Legislative Council, Dr. W. being one of the candidates & supposed successful. When I opened the door two voices greeted me with "Hello Mr. Duff" they were Edin Strang an old schoolmate & P.V. Jamieson an acquaintance from Dunblair Mt, he is now Dr. Agart here. Mr Taylor came down tent & we discussed matters, later Inspector Casey & Mr. Corson called on me, they being strangers to me I inferred that part of their visit was induced by the assumption that I had a "permit". In the evening met at Mr. Taylor's a Miss Garnett who had visited Palston, one G.T.K. April the Jell being her brother-in-law. Mr. Beecher of the H.B.C. called on me in the evening. ~

Monday 2
fine
showers in after.

Unfortunately for me this is a holiday - Dominion Day - & in consequence could get nothing done towards the election of my observatory. I hired a cook Chas. Gauthier today.