

July

change of signals as usual,

Friday 20  
five

Busy camping. — I have here probably as fine a camping ground as ever I had. Situated on the high bank of the Saskatchewan with a good view East, South & West; water is hauled daily to camp by the H.P.C. man — Mutchers the dwarf Indian, & I can have whenever desired, lettuce I latterly have daily from Capt Casey & frequently radishes also, Charles my cook keeps me well supplied with fresh veal from his garden at St. Albert 9 miles distant, whether he occasionally goes at night, not for the veal particularly but more especially to enjoy the night of a hunter. For this latter purpose he is somewhat noted, and I was informed thereof by the H.P.C. when I enquired of him, that in consequence of this infirmity the kitchen may be made to pay the pipes in case forbidden fruits are backed with squaws or half breeds. — It will be seen that I do not fare badly at camp, the salad gives me zest for my noon breakfast and evening dinner. My desires are few and my wants easily satisfied, so that work going well fields are a happy man.

A telegram from King informed me that the Surgeon General forbids my coming to the August examination at Ottawa. — Now I was reflecting on the trip for the purpose of visiting home & yet my conscience told me that it was not right to travel 5000 miles simply to attend the examination of one or two poor devils of candidates for D.L.S. — The only plea my conscience had was that I know of greater waste of time & money by the Government and why can't I enjoy a little of such waste. Personally I do not feel dissatisfied at not going because I can work up my observations and give me thereby more leisure time next winter, but for Maie I feel sorry — poor woman — she has had a load of work on her hands this summer in the house & garden, and I know that besides the pleasure of my presence our being together it would have been a great pleasure to her to show me the success of her efforts in our new large garden, & seeing

It is August to advantage, but now it will be the end of  
 October, <sup>very</sup> I see it. I uphold the surveyor General's  
 line. — Observed at night and finished there  
 by the observation for the determination of the longitude of  
 Edmonton. — Jew. Macara's birthday 53<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Saturday 21.  
 pleasant  
 cloudy

In the afternoon Capt. Cook came out to St. Albert about  
 nine miles distant <sup>N.W.</sup>. The country along the trail is level,  
 is of good soil and covered mostly with rose bushes, willows  
 and small poplar. Several half-breed farms were  
 passed having some grain & potatoes, in one field the  
 barley had "headed". — The mission (parish) of St. Albert is  
 prettily situated on a slope overlooking Big Lake & the ad-  
 joining well tilled land; Sturgeon river flows along the  
 foot of the slope & discharges the lake into the Saskatchewan.  
 There is a convent, church & bishop's palace besides several  
 other houses to make up the village. Seeing various flags  
 & pennants flying besides a gathering of women, we sus-  
 ceined some particular event, and upon calling on  
 the nuns at the convent were informed that Bishop  
 Grandin was momentarily expected to arrive. Soon  
 the bells rang and we withdrew. — Stationing  
 ourselves <sup>with the convent gathering mostly women & children</sup> in front of the church, where a table with  
 paraphernalia <sup>was placed</sup> and in front thereof on the ground  
 a carpet was spread, we awaited his arrival. — Pre-  
 sently his buggy came up the hill, the bishop wearing  
 a ten cent straw hat, this was however immediately  
 discarded upon alighting. — Then the services began  
 — kneeling in front of us — kneeling behind us, kneeling  
 all round. Priests & brothers in loose short white  
 surplices — something like a hooded robe, waist-  
 approached the bishop, knelt then greeted by kissing  
 his hand then rubbing and touching cheek to cheek  
 first on one side then on the other. — When  
 the bishop was on the carpet & in front of the  
 table, he began dressing, being assisted by  
 several priests or brothers in putting on