

It is August to advantage, but now it will be the end of
 October, ^{very} 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 53rd yr.

Saturday 21.
 pleasant
 cloudy

In the afternoon Capt. Cook came out to St. Albert about
 nine miles distant ^{N.W.}. The country along the trail is level,
 is of good soil and covered mostly with rose hedges, 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 sur-
 mised 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 ^{with the Council gathering mostly women & children} in front of the church, where a table with
 paraphernalia ^{was placed} 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 curies 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

various toggery & finally the bishop cap, which was presented by a boy in scarlet draperies, on a platter. The boys held candles, crosses, a gilt shepherd's crook &c. - The bishop after sprinkling a little water over the carpet - symbolically I suppose over his flock lead the way to church - we followed & took the front seat. - What was done in church beside a little singing by the nuns & a choir of orphan girls I take for granted was all right and in accordance with the Roman canon, but what was said & what it meant I must leave to some other to conjecture. The bishop with a priest on each side knelt the most of the time back towards the audience - somewhat disconcerting to hearer's eyes. - Once in a while he'd get up mumble latin & kneel again - for variety a sword was handed him - holy sword. - Then some mysterious proceedings took place in front of a curtained box, like a toy doll house. Something was taken out of it & put back but we being directly in front of the bishop or rather directly to his back the proceedings were not so well seen. Finally without special warning the bishop with his exit through a back door followed by assistant & a number of brothers & priests. I looked around for a cue what to do - I found the performance was over - some faithful knelt on their knees & mechanically I suppose ran off a certain length of prayer and thus keep the credit side of their devotion ledger balanced with the debit side.

Outside we shortly afterwards met the bishop, Potters ^{L'Estang}, Audé, Bercher &c. &c; we were shown through the Bishop's Palace - a large building - a sort of dormitory for the priests. A priest here is very clever at carving especially considering he has had no instruction, and no proper tools to work with. He has carved & painted

(brother)

same very creditable statuary. The only available material to work upon is poplar. A life size statue of the Virgin in the Covent garden and painted white looks very well & at first sight like marble.

— All in all, all in all, my reason comes to a complete standstill when I reflect on today's proceedings & everything - the church connected with it. - How can rational beings believe in any such trash - The parish church excelling others only in quantity - not quality. - The curse of the rising generation is to be born into a faith - from conviction I am sure few very few educated men or women would obtain it.

Observed at night for sake of the chromosomes.

Sunday 22
pleasant
cloudy

Busy computing. As a total eclipse of the moon will occur this evening I computed the local time of the various phases and appeared in the "Bulletin" yesterday. My assistant & I took dinner with Mr. & Mrs. St. Casey. Sitting outside and chatting after our hearty meal the principal topics of conversation was the approaching eclipse. Many questions I was asked - some rather amusing, for instance when Mr. Casey asked "if one couldn't see it better through a smoked glass." The three girls Grace, Claire & Nora were "full" of eclipse - all expectations and anxiety. Claire wanted her hair cut during the eclipse so it would grow quicker; her mother told me that she was confounding the superstition of cutting hair at new moon to have the above effect with the eclipse. The moon pale behind heavy clouds and was only occasionally visible. We strolled to the observatory, the Harding^{is} seeing us soon joined us, Mrs. St. bringing me a handsome buttonhole bouquet. The cloudy sky coupled with the annoyance of innumerable mosquitos suggested to Mrs. St. our departure to her house where music & chatting was indulged in. When the moon did show her face the copper color thereof showed that she was enveloped in the shadow of the earth. Mr. St. was a