

hour getting his feet with the thick & lumpy gummy cloth into his shoes. - After remaining here four hours the rain ceased altho' still threatening & we again started, but soon the rain fell again & continued to fall, but we drifted on thoroughly drenched. At 4 P.M. we reached Victoria where we camped. After camp was pitched went to the first house encountered - Mr. Gillivray's - where I remained for 1/2 hour drying myself. Then I called at the H.B.Co. - in charge of Frank Wilson. Here I met Père Duperré on his way to Lac la Biche & Lac du Hauc Lake. Mrs. Wilson is very pleasant. It is sad that her face is so disfigured and her nose almost gone. I had tea with them & spent the evening. Going to camp Mr. Wilson came along to see the Gov. of North Carolina. Victoria consists of the H.B.Co. post, a telegraph office a Methodist mission & a few half breed houses. The country about is mostly wooded and abounds in moose & black bear beside containing all other kind of northern game. Mr. Wilson has a perfect head with antlers of the red deer or elk. It has 12 horns and as uniformly & evenly distributed as if cut from a mould. He refused \$200 - from an English tourist for it. - The head is a beauty but \$200 are more beautiful to one who is not overburdened with this world's goods. - It is rather too subject to frost here to raise grain successfully (latitude 54°)

Monday 30
June

It was cheerful to awake & find a bright morning & more so, to see the sun rise with misallied face. At that time we were already on the water. The nature of the country passed is similar to that of the past two days only we see no houses with one or two exceptions. - The current was good today, we passed over a number of rapids but the high water made them not so welcome as there was no danger & increased our transit. - Along the clay banks we meet numbers of colonies of swallows, that have their nests made of clay stuck to the wall. Other swallows burrow into the bank.

Stopping for a few minutes I examined one of these colonies & found that some were with animals, wolf or

July

beaver, probably the better altho' the footprints were hardly those of a bear, had scraped down those that were within his reach for getting at the young ones or eggs. The clay wall was all scratched up in the attempt to climb up. - We were in the water 16 hours, but I have little idea how far we came or where we were when we camped. -

Tuesday 31
very fine

At 5 a.m. we were again in the water and slowly drifting, the current being rather slack. Just as we stopped shortly after breakfast for a few minutes recreation a moose cow emerged from the woods 150 yards ahead of us & plunged into the river for the opposite shore, a moment later two calves appeared, but they remained at the water's edge, Charles started for them with a club as we had no rifle, as soon as the mother saw this she started for shore again, the calves became alarmed & ran down stream a short distance and then plunged in also, when the happy mother with her offspring made for the opposite shore out of reach of danger. - It is not often that moose have two calves. -

Yesterday we saw a wolf on shore, - but I am somewhat surprised that we haven't seen any black bears yet. -

During the forenoon we passed along wooded country. Whenever we do pass prairie it is almost invariably on the north shore, this is another characteristic of the Northwest, that the north slope of a hill side is always more wooded than the slope towards the south. The slope on the north side receives less heat, is consequently moister & less subject to fires, this I think explains the fact. -

About noon a breeze from the west sprang up & we immediately improvised a sail with an oar & bent pole and blanket cover. - All day we were perfectly at sea as to where we were, the map was of no use - as the river has not as yet been traversed in this part. It is rather an unsatisfactory way of travelling, not knowing where you are, nor what rate of progress you are making. We passed a number of rapids and large islands today. In the afternoon we saw nice prairie slopes lay to our left.