

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.

- August
I was quite dark when we stopped and camped on an island about three miles below Middle Creek. -
- Wednesday 1
pleasant
after. windy
Shortly after 4 a.m. we were off and in a dense fog that we could not see 10 yards ahead of us. Any approaching danger would have made itself apparent by the noise of the water. A two hour's run brought us to Frog Creek + rapids, shortly afterwards to Vermillion Creek, ^{a good sized stream} on the South Side. Hereafter the current was rather slack and sandbars showed here + there above the water, a month hence when the water will be considerably lower they will be more numerous. In the afternoon a head wind sprang up so that very little progress was made, hence recourse was had to the oars, I oar + steering. Towards evening we were discussing and guessing as to our whereabouts with unsatisfactory result. Finding that the straight stretch of the river was very long probably 10 miles or more I was satisfied that Fort Pitt must be near the turn of the river to the north + such it proved to be. Just after turning to the north the mosquitoes came out in myriads; we were then beginning our supper. When Charles gave me my soup they began falling into it and faster than I could fish them out so that I tried thereof + ate soup + mosquitoes. There is a great deal in imagination, altho' I knew to be eating mosquitoes + many of them, I certainly never tasted them, yet we ate our soup with a fly in it. It was quite dark when we pitched camp. Hereafter I hunted up the H.B.Co. post + its officer Angus Mackay to procure a conveyance for taking me out to the de' Quital mission. At the post I met him as also Mr. Hart of the H.B.Co. Rev. Mr. Taylor of the Assiniboine Indian reserve, Mr. P. McDonald the telegraph operator here + a Mr. Lafondierre from Prince Albert. All were sitting around a stove outside as the mosquitoes were very bad + worse in the house.

Thursday 2
cool
windy

Fort Pitt by daylight revealed the buildings of the H.B.Co. + the governmental telegraph office beside a few huts as constituting the town made noted by the late rebels.