

August

wandered northward to the Beaver river. They were released & let go just before the messenger arrived informing of the fall of Batoche & the collapse of the rebellion.

The amount of suffering & privation, especially at this season of the year April & May and the greater dread & frightful anxiety that especially the women underwent must have been appalling, and if a medal is due to any they should have been awarded one, but instead all volunteers got one, even those who were not under fire at all.

Of the four Indians who saved Mr. Meams' life, one died the other three are imprisoned for life, two killed the crazy woman the other one shot Cowan. The first act had certainly very palliating circumstances, in fact when the matter was talked over with Mr. Lewis he advised or seconded their resolve to kill her rather than endanger the lives of any children, hence the punishment which was in the first instance hanging but commuted to life imprisonment is too severe.

Returning to camp Rev. Mr. Taylor accompanied me for a walk.

Tuesday 7

morn. rain

fine

Began the erection of the observatory, Mr. Meams & I being our own carpenters and certainly did more than the ordinary mechanics would. By evening we had it under roof. The mosquitoes of this nearly exterminated the life out of us.

Wednesday 8

morn. rain

cloudy

eve. rain

By noon our observatory was finished. In the afternoon I cut the telegraph wire and led it into the observatory, but this some defect somewhere it did not work. Later in the evening we worked over the line & found that the line had been down west of Humboldt. The transit was put up by the rain prevented by observing tonight. — I was satisfied with our two days labor - built the observatory & everything in readiness to work.

Thursday 9

rain

Writing etc. — Here we can get only a fortnightly mail. Today one arrives at Pitt but through the gross negligence of the postmaster at Calgary in not re-addressing our mail there as requested instead of letting it go on to Edmonton we can get none now before Aug 23, and then I'll get my letters from July 15 & since. For a man with family necessities