

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. Meamin's 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. Meamin & I being our own carpenters and certainly did more than the ordinary mechanics would. By evening we had it under roof. The mosquitoes often nearly choked 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

August is looked forward to with great anxiety. - At night adjusted transit in azimuth & observed stars for time.

Friday 10
pleasant

Busy about the observatory, at night observe for time. - I am beginning a series of temperature observations of the chronometer in order to determine its law of rate in reference to its temperature. It is a difficult problem to solve in the field not so if I could compare it hourly say with a standard clock.

Saturday 11
warm
except thunderstorm

Busy Computing. McDonald the operator from Pitt was here today looking after the line as it doesn't work. I told him with me everything was all right & to prove it we made a "ground" with a coil of wire I had & then worked east but west it was open. He attributes the trouble to the loose office not to the wire being down. It appears the operator there is anything but a star operator and does not understand the various connections. - This is undoubtedly misapplied economy in having poor men. The wire No. 6 is very good, so are the insulators (porcelain). McDonald has to do his own line repairing, his best is 45 ^{miles} east and 25 miles west of Pitt. No business could be done to Edmonton the whole day on account of an incompetent official - no economy in that. - Made extended observations today for inequality of pivots of transit F.O.I. - After the thunderstorm altho' still cloudy I managed to get a few stars for time. -

Sunday 12
cloudy

Made another series of determinations for inequality of pivots. - This afternoon three ^{Indian} women and three children with a horse came to our camp. The one was a veritable hag - old as Methuselah with face furrowed like a dry plow, and a bonnet was wanted to turn her into a witch as seen in story books. - Through my cook who speaks the Cree I learned that the other two (mother & daughter) had come from Frog Lake & were bound for Fort Pitt in search of the seducer of the daughter, who they are bound shall marry the girl, the offspring she had with her. She was quite a comely woman for an Indian and looked tidy. What their mode of procedure is in a breach of promise suit I know not. The verdict probably rests with the consensus of opinion of neighbors & friends. - It was very cloudy in the evening & night & the few transits of stars that I saw were poorly observed being so faint. -