

Monday 13
fore rainy
cloudy

Busy making determinations of irregularity of pivots of transit. Observed at night for time but being very cloudy got only a few stars.

Tuesday 14
cloudy
light rain

Busy computing. In afternoon set up & adjusted the zenith telescope preparatory to beginning latitude observations. Frequently during the day or in the evening I would take a walk but the pest of mosquitoes make such an attempt anything but a pleasure and hence prefer the tent where one is if not wholly nevertheless considerably shielded from the exasperation. -

McDonald the telegraph agent took supper with us being on his way to horse to look after the agent's instruments there - their connections as that is the cause apparently of frequent "breaks" in the line. - Rain and clouds prevented any observations tonight altho' I made the attempt. -

Wednesday 15
rainy
npt 28° F

About a week ago numbers of the potato patches on the reserve were badly nipped by the frost - the bushes being quite black. Late in the evening the clouds lifted and the stars shone. Quickly I repaired to the observatory and began my latitude observations. After beginning I got every pair of stars thereafter 19 in number having missed the first two pairs through clouds. To bed I went at sunrise. - That we had a heavy frost is apparent from the temperature given in the margin. There was a thin coating of ice in the washbasin outside of the tent. - The northern lights were very brilliant tonight; beginning in the north and spreading to and over the zenith till they fully passed the equator, then lifting in the north they hung like a living animal above us - quivering as if their life hung upon a thread - dancing as if overjoyous of their existence and again fleeing as if pursued by some magic spirit; and though all the stars steadily shone with undiminished lustre. - At a time from the northwestern horizon emanated what appeared to be dense white clouds of smoke as if some Moscow were being consumed, but it was that mysterious subtle body & phenomenon the aurora borealis. To me this is one of the most mysterious phen-