

August

my cook to ask them what they wanted - nothing was their answer only to visit me. As I just had had breakfast I left Charles to give them the remains. Putting it for them on the grass they were at it with their fingers & Charles came to give them kumpe & foken Bacon, bread, cakes & apples disappeared in a short time & their little stomachs must have shown great possibilities in elasticity. - When finished they asked for the big axe, upon enquiring for what purpose they said 'to get wood for you' I thanked them for their will but told them they were too small for the big axe, besides that they should always show the same gratitude to every one who may do them a kind act or favor. - They then went off and in a half or three quarters of an hour returned dragging large sticks of wood which they had cut, having gone home for their Seneca axe to cut it with. - This sense of gratitude was to me the more pleasing as the adult Indian seldom shows the slightest gratitude. - Frequently squaws come to my camp with a few potatoes or berries or a pint of milk to trade for bacon or bread, mostly the former, what they have to sell is probably worth five cents whereas what they expect is about fifty cents worth of bacon.

Wednesday 22
Hot

The heat and "bulldogs" (big flies) prevented me from doing much during the day time. - At night observed for time. - My attempt to observe at about half past nine proved futile for I was obliged to abandon the observatory & leave it possession of the mosquitoes. This is the first time I was ever driven out of the observatory. Towards midnight I got transit. -

Thursday 23
Hot

In afternoon there being a little breeze I took a walk. Towards evening Mr. Macara went over to the Agency (Indian) & got our mail which had just arrived with the welcome news. - At night observed for time. -

Friday 24
pleasant
cloudy

Last night at about one o'clock I heard the tramping of horses - going outside I found three men on horseback galloping along. - This seemed strange to me at the dead of night - one left the trail & rode towards my tent where I still had a light - I found him

to be Sergeant Hall, he was apparently very reluctant in answering my questions. but by pumping I found out that he & two constables of the N.W.M.P. were off to leave 35 miles after several American Indians - runners who are said to be on their way northward to the Indians with news or information of some kind - good or bad - possibly only the latter. - Hall asked me to try & call Moore on the wire, we attempted but failed to raise him (the operator). - The occurrence had for a time a somewhat disquieting effect upon me, who am by no means an alarmist. That the Indians are in a semi-rebellious state I as well as the agent here well know, & think a good opportunity offer itself and ~~for~~ a good leader with plausible plans appear amongst them they would readily take to arms again. The lack of a leader, of rifles and horses and being in the midst of harvest prevents at present any outbreak. -

— In the afternoon I was with Mr. Deane at Fort Pitt on business. - He is at present in a somewhat unpleasant situation, his clerk Vankoughnet has reported against him - untruths - & trivial affairs magnified into misdemeanors. - A case rests upon a man who has such an officer under him. - One or twice this same clerk has been removed from offices for similar offences but his influence retains him in the service. Thus by misapplied influence iniquity flourishes and the tree of justice suffocated under the burden of epiphytes that suck the sap to the roots. As the bulk of the Indians here are Catholics Vankoughnet plays the Catholic with the priests to get into their good graces for he is fishing for the appointment as agent here. -

— At night observe for time. -

Saturday 25
pleasant
cloudy

In afternoon took a walk & met numbers of Indians returning from the agency with their weekly rations of flour & bacon. Most of them utilize their dogs for carrying a part of the burden on their backs like a horse. There are few if any Indians living in their houses, they prefer