

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

August

The tepee, the reason for this is - there is then too sweeping or scrubbing of floors to do or at least an attempt made to keep it somewhat clean, this is not necessary in the tepee, when the latter is dirty they simply shift it to a clean place, secondly the grass is softer to lie upon than the floor or wide bedstead. The government gives them no cloth to make tents, so unless they can manage to save some money to buy it they should be without one, but many of them resort to their blankets + serge (for clothes), both given them by the government + use it for ^{making} the tent against the will of the government. And it is hard to stop it, for one must use extreme discretion in adopting any harsh measures towards them in the way of punishment + yet they must know and make to respect the decree of the government. - It is a great deal easier to find fault with the management of our Indians, but only those who have come in contact with them know what the "Indian question" is. -
- Observed at night for time. -

Sunday 26

pleasant

windy

night hail + rain

Out of curiosity I attended the service at the Roman Catholic mission. The members of the church here are of course exclusively Indians. - Charles my cook who is a catholic accompanied me. When we arrived at the church service had already begun. Entering I found the room comfortably filled with Indians - the men sitting on rows of benches on the right hand side the squaws sitting on the floor on the left hand side - (being a new church it has not yet its full quota of seats, and so the men out of modesty characteristic of them appropriate the seats that are made + let the squaws squat on the floor) Charles + I occupied the front seat where was another white man - a member of the mounted police. The church has a gallery in which were a number of children who had been taught as I was informed several songs for the occasion. A frightfully wheezy organ supplied an imaginary accompaniment to the singing of the choir + chanting of the priest. The singing - save the wack was such as to ward off spirits be they good or bad. I do not doubt but what the individual voices of the children