

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 <sup>making</sup> 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 made 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

are fair, perhaps some even good, but when one says  
 for another says he a thief la and so on - time  
 time was wanting, and hence instead of harmony we had dis-  
 cord. When they got out of line the schoolmaster would  
 bellow - yes that's the word bellow - forth in his harsh voice  
 and like a magnet draw them after him. - I bobbed  
 up & down as often as I could, from him I took the cue,  
 but I didn't kneel. - Candles, tapers, tinsel, finery, pictures  
 carved wooden angels and similar attractive matter for the eyes  
 were of course present. On one picture on the wall near me  
 I read in large type "The Sacred Heart of Mary" - (the same in French  
 also) and thereunder in smaller type and under the publisher's  
 name "Agents wanted" - to me this seems a sudden drop  
 from the celestial to the terrestrial. The service was in  
 French & Latin which the Indians of course did not understand.  
 A short sermon however was preached in Cree after which  
 the sacrament was administered to two Indians &  
 three Squaws. This consists of receiving a wafer in one's  
 mouth at the hands of the priest, the eating of which coupled  
 with the necessary belief (the all-important part) purges one of  
 sins. - There were probably all told about 150 in  
 the church. - Whether the Indians are in general devout in  
 their religious profession I know not. - The Church of  
 England is establishing a mission here also, but I fear they  
 will find it hard work to compete with the Roman Cath-  
 olics who have not only a good foothold, <sup>already</sup> but their church  
 & priests with their taffery is more attractive to ignorant  
 eyes and the service more mysterious though it's tempo-  
 rary & hence more impressive to simple minds. -  
 The <sup>European</sup> Catholic church is undoubtedly better suited  
 for making converts amongst uncivilized people than  
 any other creed. -  
 A hail & rain storm prevented me from getting transit  
 till late.

Monday 27  
 Pleasant

Busy writing & computing &c. In afternoon take a  
 walk. I am translating from the German