

August

Dr. Stolze's article on Photogrammetric. —
 — At night observed for time.

Tuesday 28
 pleasant
 night some rain

Take my customary walk in the afternoon. Being very cloudy I obtained but a few star transits. The "little manual for learning to read the Cree language" given us by the priest Pire Dauphin afforded us much amusement. It is in French, English & Cree. If the flour served the Indians by the Government were as bad as this English in that manual there were then justification in growling. —

Wednesday 29
 fine

I am re-reading for the third time Miss Clarke's charming "History of Astronomy during the sixteenth Century." The night was such as to delight the heart of an astronomer. I observe transits for time and am daily adding to my data for unraveling the mysteries of the rate of my chronometer for which purpose I also keep a two-hourly temperature record of it. —

Thursday 30
 moon. little rain
 pleasant

I am learning some Cree from the "little manual" spoken of previously. What interests me mostly is not the individual words but their roots. For instance - dinner is called "Abittawikijikawimetijsuwin" meaning half-day-eating, Abittawikijikaw being "noon", Abittaw - half + Kijikaw - day. A very peculiar derivation is Pijessiwok meaning - thunder. - Pijessis is a bird and when it thunders an Indian legend ascribes it to the shooting of some big bird. Charles my cook told me that when he was at Lesser Slave Lake an Indian had a feather which was supposed to be from this semi-celestial bird. It was the feather of a peacock Charles said but of that bird of course the Indians are ignorant and hence believed in its supernatural origin.

— Charles is a French Canadian who when a lad enlisted in the service of the Hudson Bay Co., married a squaw & has remained in the country ever since. He is a character. — Last evening some squaws bought potatoes but the price they asked was far above the value of the potatoes. ^{dupont to help them} They carried them