

August

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

Tuesday 28  
 pleasant  
 night some rain

Took 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. <sup>dupont to help them</sup> They carried them

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home again. As they were leaving I ordered Charles to give them the soup that was left from our dinner. As he gave each a plate full, <sup>of the same soup</sup> he said something in Cree whereupon the two squaws heartily laughed, so I asked him what he had said - "I told them it was like loading a gun" was his reply, the squaws the while watching my face. I smiled & said - Charles you're a bad man, - well you tell me what I say & I tell you. - He is always full of deviltry. -

— ~~At~~ In the afternoon Mr. G. H. Mann & his two girls Blanche & Lottie visit me for an hour or so. - At night observe for time again.

Friday 31  
fine.

The Indians are now busy harvesting their barley, the reaper which they were using got out of repair & now they use cradles, the squaws assist at binding. One cannot call them adepts at farm work, their work is generally done in a slovenly manner, but 'tis well if they work at all. - The other day several cases of shoes arrived for them and already I have noticed boys & men walking about in good heavy shoes. - The Indians are well off & well treated by the Government if they only knew it or at least acknowledge it. -

- Rev. Mr. J. Taylor called this afternoon having a message to despatch by telegraph. Upon invitation he remained for tea or rather dinner and which he undoubtedly enjoyed judging by the amount consumed. His family being as yet not here he boards with the half-breed schoolmaster & wife where the board is probably bannocks bacon & potatoes. - He has been a missionary to Ceylon & to Japan and hence one can have quite an interesting conversation with him. He is however scarcely adapted for this Country where a man is so much thrown into his own resources, as far as in some village he is better fitted.

— Observe at night for longitude being the first night for here, but when the time came for exchange of signals for some reason or other Winnipeg failed to get us altho' we got Winnipeg quite well over the wire. We grounded our west wire but without avail so after an hour's working we had to abandon any further attempt. Unfortunately King did not put on his clock, had