

Thursday 13  
 Cloudy  
 little rain

Commenced packing the instruments. — In the evening Mr. Mann & boy Gump were at my camp. I had left the telescope unpacked & showed them the moon, Jupiter & the stars — especially to Gump's delight. Afterwards we spent an hour or so in the farewell chat.

Friday 14  
 fine  
 warm

Being our day of departure I rose earlier than usual. By eleven the teams had arrived from St. Pitt for me, the last work to be done was to connect the telegraph wire again which a half hour's work sufficed to do. After seeing everything loaded Mr. Macara & I drove ahead & took dinner at the Indian agency. Mr & Mrs Mann have been very kind to me and apparently enjoyed my company too. — Bidding farewell to the few acquaintances of Orin Lake I turn my back upon the wilds that have served me but for a scientific purpose. Two hours drive brings us to St. Pitt where I pitch camp for the night. From the houses of the wahkoi the Saskatchewan besides the poor current from the immenseable sandbars. I concluded that it would be advisable & economical to drive to Battleford instead of using the unwieldy scow, & thence drive to Swift Current to the railway. When I told Charlie that I intended taking him with me to Swift Current & then sending him to Calgary by train, from the latter place to find his way home 200 miles for chance, he was delighted with the idea. Previously thereto I had told him I'd leave him at Battleford & to return home by river. — About an hour after I had told him he came to me and asked me if I would sell him one of my camp stools when we got to Swift Current, I asked him what for — So that I can have a good seat & then smoke on the train. — I laughed & told him that there were good seats in the train, this surprised him but he was satisfied. He said he thought only the rich people got seats. — I arranged with Mr Angus McKay to transport me to Battleford, I intended that he

September.

should send me through the Swift Current but as his  
 affairs here for were so important I declined con-  
 sidering them so. — After disposing  
 of the business I took a totting walking club  
 to McKay's where were also R. J. Hart, M. D. Snow  
 + my assistant. We chatted away the evening pleas-  
 antly the greater part of the time I answered and ex-  
 plaining questions put to me, embracing a wide range  
 of the sciences. McKay related some peculiar indian  
 occurrences - one of the frogs that was found frozen  
 in the winter, thawed out, <sup>to life</sup> by an indian, and as an experi-  
 ment repeated six times - freezing + thawing, the last time  
 when frozen solid the indian split him in two + found his  
 little heart still beating. — The other story (just  
 told him yesterday by the hero) a Squaw was lying in an-  
 tish for some Blackfeet, wishing to steal some of their  
 horses + while watching in the day time saw something in  
 the distance bob up + down, after some time he crevelling  
 approached it and found it to be a frog who was jumping into  
 the air + dropping head first into the effs in the nest of a  
 duck evidently with the intention of breaking some +  
 then feeding on the rich meal. Watching the unsuccess-  
 ful attempts for some time he took the barrel of  
 his gun + when the frog was in mid-air depth broke an  
 eff. The frog after his descent with beaming face as  
 the indian assures us viewed the happy result + short-  
 ly proceeded to regale himself. After his hearty re-  
 past he looked at the indian - this is the vision  
 that appears to the indian in his dream - knowing full  
 well that he had broken the eff + was thus his benefactor  
 - and said I will now do you a favor in return,  
 you want to steal some Blackfoot horses, - now if  
 you go here + there at such a time you will find  
 a corral + you can have what you want." —  
 — And the indian went as directed + got his booty. —  
 - I may remark that such indian generally has some  
 animal as his guardian angel so to speak which appears

September to him in his dreams to make any particular communication. Thus it was in this case.

— Mr. Kay has the organ for the Church of England mission at Ocean Lake in his house. They were delighted to find that I could play it especially Mr. Donald. Altho' I abhor these harmoniums yet to please them I played - we sang also. Mr. Donald played some jigs on the fiddle, Mr. Kay the triangle made of No. 6 telegraph wire. At 2-30 a.m. went a red-letter day for loneliness & quiet St. Pitt - we comprised the whole of the white people. Truly one might say - to live in St. Pitt is to be buried alive.

Saturday 15  
fine  
warm

Several hours were consumed in ferrying horses, carts & outfit across the river. — By noon in the afternoon we began the ascent of the long <sup>steep</sup> hill on the south bank of the Saskatchewan. The country is rolling and dotted with bluffs making it quite picturesque. Water is abundant in ponds, the soil is rather light & in depressions a little alkaline, here & there are stream boulders - all granite. After a two hours drive we had already an experience of indian & half bred stubbornness, the flies being bad the horses kept shaking their heads & one in so doing shook off the bridle the bridle not having a throat latch - the horse ran away, upset cart, contents & driver, he ran & kicked till he was free of everything - of the cart nothing was left together but the axle & wheels. — Mr. Macara & I in short time repaired all - harness & cart. I suppose the contents were only bedding, tents & other unbreakables. We were delayed nearly an hour & then proceeded reaching by night a pretty lake & good Camp ground, about 19 miles from Pitt. —