

Since I wrote the last night I have had an interview with the Commissioner. My plans are somewhat changed. Tomorrow I go some 15 miles E on the line to see a supposed Cherokee sepulture. Stay out there a day or two & start for I of Woods via Garry in the course of next week. I will have to

Canoe Indians in N.W. angle & things in search of a two feet- who belong to the Commission It's during the Survey part of the Lake Survey. 12.73.

Garry

Dear William  
Here is a story to begin with, of a duffer who held some office on the Commission last year, as it was told to me. He was in camp about 5 miles W of here & wanting to know all about it, came up to one of the Surveyors to ask what the bearing of the camp was. The Surveyor naturally asked him, "the bearing from where"? "Oh" he said "never mind where from, I want to know the bearing of the camp so that I can come back if I get lost". Well said the Surveyor "I can tell you the bearing of Dufferin from the camp within a degree or so." He thought a while

He then said indignantly "But that would be no good for a degree is about 60 miles & I might come out on the river at Fort-Sarry or somewhere knows where"!

June 15.

I began this letter some days ago intending to finish it at once but it got late & I left it for tomorrow & now resume.

I don't know what there is anything particular to write about, just at present.

The River is gradually getting down to its summer level, the water falling at the rate of several inches, or a foot or so every day.

The mosquitoes deserve mention if anything does. They keep getting worse.



More of them every day, & in a little time I really don't know what they will come to. I never go out on the prairie without getting from 30 to 40 new bites on the hands, & one is obliged to keep the head net down all the time. The other day I was out shooting but after a time the brutes got so numerous that I started for quarters as fast as I could. They sat so thick on my rail that I was obliged to brush them off with my hand now & then to see plainly at all.

I took a look for land snails a while ago & I tell you the mosquitoes did pitch in by 4 or 5 at a time on the back of each hand alternately. I managed to find however 3 kinds of shells. A *Lucina* quite like that common at home. A very small nearly

Smooth helix which I have also  
seen at Montreal, & a small  
bulimus. The latter appearing to be  
quite rare comparatively.

Yesterday I was surprised & astonished  
to find that my Valise which had been  
so long missing had arrived. It-  
contained several things I would not  
care to lose, <sup>among which</sup> ~~and also~~ two books which  
I had begun to read.

My plans as far as yet formed  
are as follows. I want to get off  
tomorrow or next day & go in the  
first instance to Falways Camp which  
is about 20 miles W of here on the line.  
I think I will get Dr Burgess to go so  
far with me & will spend a day or  
two there botanizing &c. From thence  
if I find it possible I will go to St



Joseph, or as they call it - St-Joe,  
which is a little settlement on the  
Pembina R just at the place where  
it cuts through the ridge known as  
Pembina Mountain. From there  
my plan is to follow the Pembina R.  
as far as to where it crosses the boundary  
from the N, or further as I may  
have time looking for Geological  
exposures & collecting generally.

I had intended to start early tomorrow,  
but found on summing it up that  
I had not transported enough, & must  
wait till I can get a Cart to substitute  
for one of the pack ponies.

The weight runs up in a most  
alarming way. My own baggage & apparatus  
will be from 200 to 300 lbs. Then 4 men's  
baggage at 70 lbs each. Two H.B. tents at  
50 lbs each. One bell tent 90 lbs.

Business concerns & looking at things  
a good deal more. Then rations for  
5 counting 25 lbs a day, & I want to  
have at least 7 or 8 days grub to  
get to the first commissariat-dept-  
& have plenty time to spare for exploration.  
I chose a horse for myself the other day,  
& took in preference to the large riding  
horses brought up this spring, a good  
looking Red River pony. I think it  
will suit me better & be much less apt  
to go astray in case I get down to  
look at anything. I got his fore feet  
shod out, let him the custom time to  
leave the hind hoofs just as they are.  
I have made quite a little collection  
of plants here. They are in the main  
just like those of Canada East, & as  
far as I can tell are just about-



as far advanced as their  
representatives at Montreal at the  
same season. The two bushes were  
in full flower about a week ago.

There is just a sprinkling of plants  
new to me, & these for the most  
part flower in so ridiculous a  
manner as to be undeterminable by me.

The only trillium I have found is one I  
have not seen before & which I make out  
to be *T. cornutum*. I got a guess  
back in flower the other day, which  
I was delighted to find I could  
make out to be *Siberia argentea*  
which is a western form.

I meant to have told you, but see  
that I have forgotten — that my reason  
for not taking a longer Western trip at

present is that Capt-Cameron  
wants me to be back in time to start  
for L of Woods early in July.

By going out west I may manage to  
do now a report of country from  
which all the parties & perhaps the  
supply depot will be withdrawn in  
Autumn.

I learnt a piece today the other day, which  
however is not I suppose new to you.

viz that given a true meridian line, that a  
line at right angles to it where it cuts  
49° will not when followed E or W  
continue on that latitude, but will really  
be a tangent to it at the starting  
point or that the true latitude line must  
be found from time to time by taking offsets  
from the tangent. Nevertheless it is so  
the boundary is run in this way.

Your affectionate brother  
George In Dawson