

[The Diary of Thomas Hassel]

January 1 - March 17, 1844

The name of the author does not appear in the diary, but it mentions that the writer was Evans' interpreter. Evans in a letter to Colin Campbell of September 17, 1844 relates how he accidentally shot his interpreter Thomas H., and John McLean in his Life of James Evans on page 194 gives the name of Evans' interpreter as Thomas Hassel. Thus it is fairly certain that Hassel was the author of this diary.

Copied by Virginia Beveridge from the original in the possession of the library of the University of Western Ontario and collated with Grace Lee Nute, December 1931.

January 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Commence[d] the service the night preceeding at 1/2 past 9 O'clock M<sup>r</sup> Mason address[ed] the congregation from Luke 13 chap. 8, 9 v., and M<sup>r</sup> Evans closed at 12 O'clock. solemnity rested on my mind to reflect how I have pass[e]d the year with a strong determination to devote myself more to the service of God. Cloudy weather in the day. M<sup>rs</sup> Evans badly.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Sent all hands to the wood for timber to build a work shop. held the class meeting at night. felt a gracious Refreshme[n]t from the presence of the Lord. wrote a letter for Ben. Sinclair M<sup>r[s]</sup> Evans c little better.


3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday all hands squaringc stuff and others hauling home the Logs and Roofing M<sup>rs</sup> Evans still badly

4 Thursday all hands at the building and others drawing their stuff<sup>&c.</sup> to the place layd the foundation

5<sup>th</sup> Friday Calm weather and cold all hands at the building put up the frame, and log'd up to the plating. M<sup>rs</sup> Evans still badly.

6<sup>th</sup> Saturday Cold day blowing from the North and drifting. finished the house, being the fifth day since we commenced 23 ft. by 19. M<sup>rs</sup> Evans very badly.

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday still cold. had a blessed meeting in morning. M<sup>r[s]</sup> Evans still worse & worse M<sup>r</sup> Evans was to remain with her through the day and M<sup>r</sup> Mason poorly to[o]. I was oblige to address the Indians in the morning service by the help of God I made a few remarks from revelations b[e]hold I

stand at the door &c. I felt quite overcom'd at sight of my unworthiness,  and thought I was perhaps pressuming to take too great a responsibility to be a spokesman between God & man, and still at the same time I felt a strong desire to be <sup>[sic]</sup> admitted<sub>^</sub> into the vineyard of my Lord, and in Looking back upon the time since I have entered the service of the Mission[a]ry I saw that God has always Crowned my feeble Effort I looked up to Him from [whom] proceeded every good and perfect Gift. I felt encouraged, and in the afternoon M<sup>r</sup> Evans addressed the Congregation M<sup>rs</sup> still poorly.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Went to the Fort with Dav[i]d Jones to get some things Teddy to go to sawing David sharpping the Saws and I working at saw House

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Still working at the box and handle for goose-neck

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Went to the wood to get Get [sic] Home some wood and cut 1 cord. very cold, > clear weather

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> David & [I] [?] sharpened the pit saw and in the Evening commenced to saw a juniper log for the bottom of a wood sledge.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> still w[o]rked at the saw par[t] of the day and tryed the saw but it would not do -- Peter << Lp, very badly and delerius

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Saw[e]d the log with David worked at my wood sledge cold still frosty

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Evans preached at the Ft. from Acts 16 chap 31 ver[se] Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy House. and M<sup>r</sup> Mason preached to the Indians

at the village. M<sup>r</sup> Evans preached in the evening from Deuteronomy the [blank in MS.] chap [blank in MS.] ver. For ye are not yet &c. blessed sermon. felt a gracious feeling while interpreting

Monday 15 Peter departed this life about 12 o'clock

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> hauling the wood David making the coffin.

Peletra [?] dig[g]ing the grave

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Purifying tallow for M<sup>r</sup> Mason. clean'd about 60 lbs tallow. M<sup>r</sup> Mason dipping candles with Amos.

Evening M<sup>r</sup> Evans made a few remarks on the death [of] our departed.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Before breakfast clean[e]d a kettle [of] grease. (after d[in]n[er] ) attended the funeral service in the School house and buried the remains of Our brother. I hawling wood part of the day. Went to singing school in Evening.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> clear weather and cold I hawling wood and Evening took a walk I found myself very poorly in health, and with a Dark cloud hung over my soul, scarcely able to look up, to God, only remembering thus Passage. Trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlastin[g] strength."

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> clear weather & cold, after breakfast I went in shaarch of wood for sawing, with David & b[ ]c[ ]r[ ]a[ ]v[ ] . during I shot 14 Partridges. David 5. in Evening attended Ben's class. gracious feel[i]ngs rested upon us during the meeting.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Went to see M<sup>rs</sup> Evans still in but recov[er]ing she has experience the blessed afflictien. I & McKay went to the Fort to get some of the Articles wanted at the saw pit and provisun. redy to start Monday Morning

Sunday 21 M<sup>r</sup> Evans preach[ed] at the Fort & M<sup>r</sup> Mason &

I Preach[e]d at the village from Dan 6 chap. 10 v. morning & evening service.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> We got to the sawing tent, with 3 sledges -- sent one of them back [?] with a boy. put up by sun set but we was greatly tormented with the smoke during the night.

Tuesday 23

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Sketch of a Journal to Churchill. 1844.

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As I am of utter weakness & cannot do any thing of myself and although I cannot Make any amendments for my long continuance and open rebellion against that merciful God who I now see (by His grace) the way in which He has <sup>lead</sup> me and have I trust brought me from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto Himself.

Although I see a great many obstacles in regard to my own feeling and abilities in this awful and Solemn Work in which God ha[s] been pleased to place me, & it is these precious promises that encourages me my feelings. "I will not leave thee nor forsake thee" "My Grace shall be sufficient for thee and my strength shall be made perfect in thy weakness" and He who will not despise the day of small things, May now bless the feeble effort I am now to take in proclaiming the Glad tidings of Salvation to the scattered flock who are still living in darkness and supperstition.

After having served as Interpreter with the Wesleyan Missionaries part of four years, I got my permission to take a visit [to] churchill at my own request to see my poor relations with a hope of cultivating their hearts ready, for the Missionaries who are likely to visit them whenever Opportunity Offers.









After making a little preparation before the north Packet arrived from McKenzie's River.

On Thursday the last day of February after a blessed meeting and bid[ding] good by to my brothers and sister and Com-mendin[g] my poor family to the care of good Providence I left the village with the Packetmen ~~ef~~ on the first [of] March fine sunshine the whole day gentle breeze [sic] from the South rather soft for traveling on snow shoes. I often thought on my family during the day and looked to see the way I came, but no sign of her coming after me. I felt rather confounded that I did think so but suddenly thinking on these lines I felt shamed . . . confounded by my own weak frame. "he that taketh son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and I thought to my selfe there is many of my poor brethren who are rushing on heed-lessly down to Eternal perdition for whom Christ died. We en-camped at five O'clock during the Evening before bed time I began to question the two Indians who were the Packet Carers I asked them what they thought of religion at Oxford House. they replied they thought it was very good, but what can we do for we have no one to teach us. I asked them whether the Master at Oxford House ever told them any about religion they answered no it is true he <sup>keep'd</sup> reading time on Sundays, but it was in English. I told how God had created every thing we saw eighther [either] in heaven or on earth & in what state man was created, the fall of man, by obeying the devil and disobeying God that made them and there by brought every black passions of life      and when we had committed our wearrid bodies to God we lay'd down to rest.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> we started at 3 O'clock against strong north

wind with snow. we encamp'd at the end [of] winepeckoociss  
being the Saturday<sup>evening</sup> I told the[m] I would not start till Monday  
morning that it was not made for man's recreation but the day  
belong'd  $\ominus$  to God and that no christian lik'd  $\ominus$  to break that  
day no  $\ominus$  any sinner that had any respect for his maker or for  
his soul would by no means violate the Sabbath I told them  
that Great many in our country thought that it was their duty  
to work on that day providing they were ordered by their Master  
and therefore all the sins of working of [or] [?] doing any  
thing contrary to God's Holy Law, they were not answerable for  
it. I told them this was pleasing men to displease God and  
besides God told us in His Holy Word "that if the blind lead  
the blind both shall fall into the ditch, and they determined  
to rest over that Sunday

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> We rose when the sun was up I thought on  
the meeting at Bessbene<sup>[?]</sup>. I hove'd a long sigh look[ed] at the  
rising sun casting [h]is ray in and thought to myself, so the  
Eye of God fill[e]d the whol[e] creation I Knelt down in Our  
Campment I felt a gracious and felt and assurance of God  
lessening to my stamering Prayers After Breakfast the wind  
changed and blew the fire & smock right over our hut and we  
[were] obliged to change fire side. after this done, I told the  
Indians although we were not Privileg to go to church or meeting,  
God beheld every thing whether good or bad, and therefor we  
would pray to God that He may help us to read a small portion  
of scripture and to understand it and lay it to good & honest  
heart, and that it may bring forth in us the fruit of good  
living to His praise & Glory. I Read and explained the ten  
Commandments, and the Curse of that Law but how God by his in-

finite goodness had given His Son to bear the curse to all in our state and made it possible  for the fallen race of Adam to be restored again to their former Spiritual health. ( I have forgotten to state that on the night preceeding I endeavoured to tell them the consequence of violating the Holy Sabbath day, and that the day belonged only to God who only had a right to own every day if He choosed, that no master was ordered by God to break the Sabbath day by making their <sup>servants</sup>  to do any missionary work except it be works of necessity & mercy. I told them also that we ignorant peopel think it our duty  to obey our Masters,  so it was right to obey them in any thing accordant with the word of God, that Jesus Christ Himself to prevent this mistake said that "if the blind Lead the blind both will fall into the ditch -- & one of them said,  I never knew of these things before, & therefor I always thought my duty to do whatever my master tells me, but at my hunting tent I never do any thing if I can help it. since ever I heard of the Word of God. it is true I have learned very little and when ever my master sends me any where, he just allows me so much provision for my voyage & says serve you out  for so many days & mind you don't take more time to go to such a place. but from this time I shall always try to remain on the Sabbath day I want to hear more of this  good word of God, but my trading-chief will not allow me to leave this Fort. As I told him as for that just depended upon his own look out, that if he absolutely would go to a place to hear the word of God his first thing for the preparation was to pray his debt likely an honest man, and then tell his trading chief that [he] wanted to go to seek a place for his own happiness  during the rest of the Evening I thought on sweet Communion and



fellow ship with God in His House of Prayer with my brethren I left behind me. tears stood in my eye and [I] wept, which ended with a long sigh. I thought on the Omnipresence of God and that even a sigh reached. I again hove myself on the arm of Gods mercy through a crucified Redeemer. I felt God was there to soothe my longing Soul. I pour'd out my soul before God in the Language of one of old "if thy presence go not with me Let me not go hence"

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> We started by moon light at 1 O'clock fine clear sky and halted at 8 O'clock for breakfast during which time it began to fall a h[e]avy snow blowing hard from south. towards Evening it changed from the No[r]th We encamped at sunset.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> fine weather nothing new further endeavouring every night to do my best by the help of God to proclaim to my two partners the truths of Christianity and keeping Prayers with Him every night & morning at breakfast time

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> it snowed very hard during the night in the morning we rosed out of our blanket all covered with snow<sup>†</sup> breakfast<sup>[d]</sup> at 8 in Oxford Lake Arrived at the Fort at 12 O'clock. we started at 2 O'clock. ^ I felt very tired & sleepy I was put into Maginis's<sup>[?]</sup> House for the little I had to remain there. I endeavour'd to converse of the things of Religion with the good man of the House but poor man he seems to be as ignorant of spiritual things and seems to think that religion all only a name just men characters I had Prayers with Him Before bed time and commit[t]ed myself to the care of Providence that night.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> during this day I did very little I found every thing going against the truth of Good's Word. I found it

rather dangerous to enterfere with the poor country peopels at this place for the Gentleman at this place gave me no encouragement of doing good. for he spoke to me in thi[s] manner after asking me what provisions I wanted I would require about 10 days provisions as the snow [is] deep. "you don't gone on Sundays do you? I answered No Sir. then he said Our men at this place does not remain over sunday and so you will think enterfereing with the Company business I told him I would be very sorry to [be] interfering with the Company's business for the telling the Indians what was right and what was not then he said the Indians at his place knew'd very well ~~very~~ of these things and that He did not want me to preach to the Indians at his place that the Missionaries at [had] [?] nothing at all to do with [the] Company I told him again I Knew'd that M<sup>r</sup> Gladman I should be very sorry to enterfere with about their their [sic] worldly affairs but that did [not] hinder any Christian to declare the Truth of God's Word. then [he] got in a rage and said that he did not want me to preach to him about these [things] as he knew'd of these things better [than] I did. I told [him] that God did not Look at the Knowledge of [the] thing, if the deed did not go with the Knowledge he replied I tell you again I don't want you to preach to me here. I replied I did not intind [sic] to preach if I saw him so obstinate as to go against his conscience and then he said I am only telling you that this is the business and asking me whether I know that I was intereferring with the Company's affairs. I told [him] I did not [know] I was interferring with the Company's affairs when I was telling the Indians what was our duty and that I had not told them to stop but their own good conscieinces[sic]


he told me too that I might go the way I came. I replied I did not come here to remain I came here on Route to see my friends if God spared my my [sic] life.

Friday 8 I started on my journey about 2 hours before day during the day I was thinking all the time on the treatment M<sup>r</sup> Gladman showed me. I felt very lonely my spirit bowed and depressed I thought once more on the mercy of God which brought my [me] [?] through Life during the day I cried & sigh'd very much. We incamp'd at sun sit having snowed the whole day. I attributed my feelings to the change of the weather.


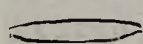
Just along side our Campment I remember a little House still standing up where I remained about a fortnight 14 years ago. I my faithfulness to God was very weak, while remembering the time I lived in that house a Prayerless man indeferent about God and my scul. I could not suppress my feeling. I drop'd my axe took my snow shoes and went away to a hammock of wood and poured out my soul before God who dispis'd not the sighing of a contrite spirit and him that trembled at his word. I felt as if I could ask God that he may spare my life to behold once more the assembly of His saints at ~~Yerk~~ Norway House Especial[ly] my partner in [life] & my little ones. I felt encouraged as if God had answer'd my Cry. I went back to my ~~hut~~ hut greatly refresh'd blessed be to His Holy Name|for his enexhaustable fulness every I endeavoured to Proclaim to my two Companions the glad tidings of salvation purchased for perishing sinners. After having commit[t]ed myself to the care of God I went to rest

Saturday 9 still snowy weather I felt my stomoch [sic] very weak at breakfast I took a little Pemican and some Tea but a lay on my stomoch the whole day. but in the evening I felt very

hung[r]y and [ate] a good supper not knowing that would be my hurt. On the next morning my companions determined to stop again over the Sabbath

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> When I rose out of my [blankets] I felt my stomach weak still I thought on Prayer meeting at Norway house I told the Indians we would have Prayers before Breakfast. After breakfast I spoked to the Indians about the Creation of the world When I came to the fall of man I felt my bodily weakness came on me I drop'd speaking I told the[m] I felt very poorly. I took a little brimstone smashed it put some warm water in it and drank it I felt I got worse & worse I took to walk about but not better my hope of getting back to Norway House was over. I sat down to write a letter in pensil [sic] to M<sup>r</sup> Evans before ~~it~~ I got worse giving him notice about my poor family I Often looked up to [the] sky & sigh'd but felt my trust in God very weak I thought it was dangerous to wrestle  with God trusting that all thing work'd for the good of them that loved God. I thought of heaving myself on atonement. and not to be sure of my saf[e]ty till I got there. about sun set I felt as if I could be able to say a few [words] to my Companions I rose and read part of 14<sup>th</sup> ch. of st John's Gospel. I was enabled to tell the two Indians that these were the gracious Word of the Son of God Oh the stamp of that blessed hour was powerful. I again hove my sinful self on the mercy of God through Jesus Christ I felt God was there to bless me. The clouds vanish'd away from my mind my confidence in God arrived I looked up to the Sky & said to myself Lord is this Thy thoughts toward ungrateful faithless wretch. I felt both my body & soul refresh'd before we committed Ourselves to His

fatherly Protection [sic] We song'd a couple of verses A  
Charge to Keep I have a God to Glorify &c I felt my soul  
at liberty to speak at ease with my Offended Father white [while]  
[?] all that day morning I was making hard thoughts of I  
felt he meek & lowly in and had again given rest to my soul. I  
raised my humble gratitude in this Language Weeping May endure  
for a night But Joy Cometh in the morning we lay down to rest  
with a dertermination [sic] to start <sup>a[t]</sup> ^ 12 Oclock and carry on  
with [most] possible speed to York to get there at the oppointed  
time. to be the ninth Day

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> I still feel very poorly this morning, but  
I must go on for I cannot stop behind the Packetmen for Fear of  
loosing myself in a Lake of 1 Days Walk we had to cross about  
12. at breakfast made a little soup of a Partridge, I had in  
my bag. after supping a little of it I felt a little stronger  
again during the day I Kill'd 4 Partridges for which I felt  
thankful for the Provision I had for my voyage I could not  
stomach a mouthful of it which was flour & Pemican I really  
did think The Good Lord was to take me away I called to mind  
the blessings I had already receiv'd from him I said to myself  
Oh faithless wretch will I now distrust His fatherly Production  
[protection] [?] I had already experienced in the midst of all  
my discouragements He was my comfort  towards the mid[d]le  
of the day I got a little better we amended our speed my  
dogs got so tyred  that they scarcely could hawl I  
got myself tackled with them & made the fourth Dog, & so pro-  
ceeded on until we incamped for that night

Th Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> we proceeded on our journey this morning

against snow & wind I still feel rather weak but at breakfast time I made a little Partridge stew and sup'd a good deal of it and great deal strengthened we got to foxes River and incamped <sup>✕</sup> still snowing towards it got clear and calm

Wednesday 13 We started at 2 O'clock going down the River arrived at the sawing tent on the River at Breakfast time I was treated by the men that were [there] with most Kind civil manner. they [gave us] some tea and prepared [it] as quick as they could for my Breakfast. after breakfast I told them that in the morning I start so early and that at breakfast time was the Hour at which I kept prayers with my Companions I told them I should be very ~~seery~~ Glad to join with them they said they should be very Glad indeed to have the opportunity. they handed me a Bible and I read the fiftyeth chapter o[f] Isaiah I gave a few words of exhortation and concluded by offering up a Prayer to the Heav[en] of Prayer, and bade them good by they all expressed their Gratitude [sic] to me for what they seen & heard. I said to myself Poor creatures many of you no doubt have been brought up by Christian Parents and have been taught to lisp your saviour's Praise, and now have been lead by Wicked Companions  $\ominus$  and for want of daily exhortations, you have grown careless and indeferent about your immortal souls and I Prayed that God in His infinite Goodness reclaim them back to His fold. I told also that God expected much of them that we are to be way beacons for the Kingdom of God that we are to let our lights shine before men that by our good examples win the Souls of our poor benighted brethren around us. at 12 I came to a camp of Indians but the men were off I found a couple of women & a few girls. I asked them whether they were going about

on sabbath days or they we[re] endeavouring to serve God they replied we never do any thing on sundays since ever we heard the minister we are trying [praying] [?] to God every day I told them [it] is proper they strive to do what God has commanded but they must not think that will bless here or hereafter because they are endeavoring to do things. I told there is one thing they might were likely to be misled in. that was this that the Great Saviour of men had commanded His disciples saying Go ye & teach all nations Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son, & Holy Ghost teaching to observe all things &c. I told they were still strangers to God in their soul by thinking that God will bless them because they do these things, that God looks at the[m] and it 'twas only by simple faith in Jesus Christ and believe in Him with all our heart and up to Him for mercy through Him was only the way that God had appointed and God had said "he that climbith some other way the same is a thief and a robber" I Prayed with them and felt that God was to bless me. they boil'd some dinner of venison and gave me some to take with me it is the doing of One who feedeth even the raven when they cry to Him. for the food I had for my voyage was very severe for my Complaint and bade good by and went our way we encamp'd about 5.

Thursday 14 we rose this Morning about 2 after 12 at night carry'd hard the whol[e] day nothing new encamped at 5 after I felt disposed to exhorted my two partners in the Name of God and entreated [them] to except of the Offers of salvations. I had forgotten to mention that mostly every night I endeavour'd to speak to them but not so much as I did this night. this was a blessed night for I [was] thinking on the meeting at

Norway House I haved a long sigh but God heard my sigh and was to bless me. I got one of my partners to Pray with me

Friday 15. we slept rather [late] this morning for we [were] very tired last night we proceed'd on our journey at 4 Oclock all this [day] I felt my appitit began to increase again and felt quite cheerful snowing most part of the day meditating on what I say to my Country peopel when I should see them when time came we encamped in small lake all this time since I left Oxford House even the Muskasky Country seemed to me to break down me spirit for every day I walked the swamps & trees were the same thing over again

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> The weather cold and drifting hard from the North we arrived at York Factory at 12 Oclock being our ninth day from Oxford House which was time appointed by M<sup>r</sup> Gladman. I could not see M<sup>r</sup> Hargrave. I got into the mess Ketchun and remain'd till M<sup>r</sup> Wilson came and told me that I had [to] go into the other house where they were at least thirty peopel between men women & children they were about 5 Deferent tongues of us They began to drink the little rum which they get every Saturday 1/2 pint each man. I did not proposed to say any thing to [them] about having Prayers & I com[m]it[t]ed my myself to the Production [protection] [?] of God to Keep me in this hour of tryal.

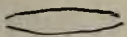
Sunday 17. This morning I thought of Norway House meeting I rosed in the midst of cursing and swearing. I lifted up my eyes to heaven and felt that God was there to bless me. after breakfast I Prepared myself to go to Prayers which was held at 10 Oclock and the rest of the day I spend an hour in speaking



to some of the women that from cross the River and an old man and at night after the peopel had gone to bed I addressed them again they listen[e]d with the utmost attention which I was exhorting them to flee from the wrath to come I beheld beheld one of them weeping I felt it was very dangerous for me to say any more to them on ac/o of the opposition I saw the peopel had against instructing the heathens at this Place and felt it was not my place to interfere or to be too forward in this work

I never saw the need of my Master Dear Evans till then. I cryed & cryed and wept like a child mourning for his Father. by this tryal and affliction God has taught me to prize my ministry better than ever I did before. I called myself ten thousand fools and presumptious fellow for thinking to go this way without them thus I passed the day

Monday 18 This Morning M<sup>r</sup> Wilson asked me where I was going I told him I was going to churchill to see my friends while at breakfast I was called for by M<sup>r</sup> Hargrave. he asked where or how far I was going I replied I was going to churchill to see my friends. he asked me how I was to get there I told him I was thinking to [start] there now with the Packet he told me they were no Packet going to churchill at this season of the year I asked him whether he [would] not send an Indian with me he told he could not do this for M<sup>r</sup> Evans did not give him any word about sending an Indian with me on the ac/ of the mission and then he could not do it on ac/ of the Company and besides he had not an Indian at York that knew the road to churchill that most of his Indians gone up to Red River & Norway

House and the rest were all away inland on ac/  of the dreadful murder which was commit[t]ed last fall and should the Governor himself was to send an order for churchill he could not know who to send and there was no Packet coming from [there] till late upon the last Ice that was the very time I was thinking to go back to Norway House and to remain till spring at York would [not] do for I could do very little good, and to get to churchill in the spring I would be obliged to remain there till fall all my hopes of seeing my friends was blighted and to go along the coast alone I could not do and besides I think I see the secreed [sic] of the excuses, which was pretended for an obstacle in my way, as I have learn'd at York before ever M<sup>r</sup> Hargrave spoke to me, that M<sup>r</sup> Wilson speaking to one of the men of the Fort concerning my going to churchill the man told him that it was good I was going to see my friends in order to do some good amongst them. M<sup>r</sup> Wilson swore and cursed at my attempt and said that he would be glad if I was sent back for I was comed there to entice his Indians away from his place. and I see'd on passing Oxford House the treatment I received from the Gentleman in charge that it was a dangerous undertaken I had chosen for fear of put[t]ing my employers in troubles as I had not any responsibility to do any like opposition against Company's affairs.

I considered on the matter and thought to remain there and slip the opportunity I had to remain about 3 or 4 months doing nothing and to go back to Norway House I only took 1 month and it was not likely I could do any good amongs[t] the Indians for I feared and see plainly they would not allow me to

say any thing to their Indians but I must do it all private<sup>^</sup>  
I have forgotten to mention that I had a fine Polite man for  
my companion all this time (a tinsmith) as I arrived at York<sup>\*</sup>  
when he knew that I was M<sup>r</sup> Interpreter he came to me and told  
me that he was one of our Soci[e]ty and asked me how I was  
and my family and how I left M<sup>r</sup> Evans and family and all the  
rest at Norway House<sup>\*</sup> at nights after he retired from he would  
call me to his cuner [corner] [?] and passed the Evening in  
singing even in this I saw the goodness of God<sup>\*</sup> although this  
man was a professor of Religion < he was very disposed and would  
talk of things to Keep me out of long[ing] any man may guest  
at my disappointment in coming so far and could not get at my  
object. all this little [while] I walked from one corner of  
the Fort to one just like an foolish thinking on my useless  
trip, but one solution Kept up my heart in thinking that I am  
not the first man that fell short in his attempt and that God  
had often turned these disappointments upside down for was wise  
purposes I said to myself I have already learn'd many good  
lessons since I left Norway House, and so I endeavoured to ban-  
ish from my thoughts these troubles and ~~besides~~ so made up my  
mind to go back to Norway House. I almost attempted to go [to]  
churchill alone but then I would expose myself to many more  
troubles. if I had but known the way I would have proceeded  
on, and would have tryed to push my way through and back again  
to Norway House but there I would have likely comed in late  
season of the year, and the rest of the day I spent in preparing  
for my return, and after the [packet] [?] was in I sat to writing  
a [letter] to M<sup>r</sup> Hardding at churchill stating the reasons of  
my not coming farther than this