

[The Diary of James Evans  
August 25, 1841 - April 8, 1842]

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, spring, 1932.

1841      Thou art my Alpha & my Omega. May this Journal bear ample testimony to the riches of thy grace, and be filled for thy glory.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>      At 5 p.m. Left York Factory, where I have enjoyed 5 blessed sabbaths, with a people whose marked attention to the means of grace, and evident satisfaction in listening to the word of life, has given me the greatest pleasure, but what is still more encouraging is that, I have every reason to believe that several have profited by the word preached.

I baptized 5 adults and 3 children during my visit.

Encamped 16 miles from York, having stemmed the current against a with stiff breeze.

26<sup>th</sup> Thursday.      Started 1/4 to 4. Breakfasted at 8. Met two boats at 3 M<sup>r</sup> Bird, sent package to England types books &c. 4 met last R[ed] R[iver] boat, sent note to M<sup>r</sup> Hargrave. Almost laid by with a severe cold, and much fever. Hauled on the tracking line until I perspired freely & felt some thing better. Encamped a little below Foxes River. The River Hayes on which York Factory stands is formed by the junction of Fox & Steele Rivers the latter of which we leave to the left the banks of this (Hayes' River) are generally from 30 to 50 feet above the level of the water. composed of alluvial clay mixed with great quantity of shells, a species of cockle & muscle.

27<sup>th</sup> Friday      Started at 4 oclock A.M. Blowing hard in our teeth making the tracking very slow & tiresome. the boat is hauled by seven men our crew being 14 in number exclusive of the guide & bowsman. The water has today been very muddy, heavy rains

having fallen yesterday & last night above. At 8 entered Foxe's River, here the banks become more broken & rather higher than those of Hayes' River. The soil becomes rather more sandy with a less quantity of shells. The bank when reached stretches away nearly level & is covered with a deep moss at all times saturated with water out of which spring pine & small poplars, all very stunted in their growth and shewing the sterility of the soil & the coldness of the climate. The shores of both this River and the one before passed, are strewn with boulders of the primitive classes, seinite [syenite], gneis[s], red granite & some grey wacke, some scattered pieces of lime stones, and a few -- sand stones, many of these are embedded in the soil, but great quantities are annually brought from the interior by the heavy masses of ice. These rivers are very shallow seldom more than 6 or 8 feet water in the deepest places, & more frequently from 2 feet to four, bottom gravel.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Started at 20 min to 4. A.M. Head wind. Breakfasted at 8: Ducks & Buffaloe tongue, — with a cup of tea, made an excellent meal. Walked a few miles along the bank, alluvial clay mixed with gravel gneis boulders & pieces of lime stone. Shot three ducks. the banks generally very steep from the head of which avalanches of mud & trees thrown in every direction slideing into the river make passing the towline a very difficult & sometimes dangerous business. While breakfasting one of these slides took place immediately opposite to our encampment bearing trees stones & mud with a rush of water which had loosened the soil above until all gave way & with a grand launch rushed into the bed of the river leaving a gaping chasm of muddy bank above. At 4 oclock made mouth of Hill River. Encamped at 7 o'clock. 4<sup>th</sup> day

Sun. 29<sup>th</sup> Started at 1/2 past 4. Much pained in mind, from being necessitated to proceed today. But the boat having so long & dangerous a voyage, the hands being all inexperienced, and unable to make any greater exertion I fear to take the responsibility of detaining the boat, as should any thing prevent their reaching their winter destination, I should not escape severe censure. Read the Church Service in the boat after breakfast, and endeavoured to improve the forenoon in reading. Made Dancing Point at 12 oclock. Encamped at 8 oclock. 5<sup>th</sup> day

Mon. 30. Started at 5 o'clock. Thundering all the morning. Breakfasted at 9. A few drops of rain during the forenoon, after which it rained in torrents during the whole afternoon & evening, we of course had no remedy, but to bear it patiently. The poor young fellows who have just arrived by the ship, some of them evidently of very respectable parentage, feel very severely the labours of the voyage especially the heavy rain, during which they have been literally wading through the dripping bushes and are completely soaked from head to foot. At 6 oclock made that part of the river where the rock first presents itself in situ, and at 7 encamped below the Rock Portage. A good fire before which we got comfortably dried, together with the broth and part of the meat of three ducks, & a cup of good hot tea evaporated all our extraneous moisture, and made us perfectly happy, but M<sup>rs</sup> E appears to have taken a little cold.

About 8 oclock I found on going to the men's fire, they had a few small branches in the centre of which the fire had burned a round hole, which was occupied by some ten or 12 small pots, in which on the smouldering embers they were endeavouring to boil some tea they were wet from head to foot. I arranged their wood, made a

good blazing fire directed them to pull their shirts outside their pantaloons, and got them tolerably well dried, when we all coiled ourselves up & got a good nights rest. 6<sup>th</sup> day

Tues. 31 Carried & hauled over the Rock Portage. Hauled up 2 Rapids & breakfasted below the White Mud Portage. Crossed do. at 12 oclock. Encamped below the Brasse. 7<sup>th</sup> day

Wed 1 Sep<sup>t</sup> Took a sketch of the mountain. Breakfasted at 9 o'clock. Rapids all day 4 portages & slept at the Burnt Portage. 8<sup>th</sup> day

Thurs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Breakfasted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> portage Du Gallé. Left my oil cloth coat at the encampment Slept at the Island Portage.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Carried over, & Hauled up 4 falls before breakfast. Bkfst at 9 Made Swampy Lake at 4 o' encamped at the 1<sup>st</sup> portage

Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> Breakfasted at 2<sup>nd</sup> dried tent &c wishing to make Knee Lake wind fair.

Sun. 5. Made Knee Lake. Head wind. Pulled hard all day. At 3 o' met Norway House Canoe. Encamped at the Narrows.

Monday 6 Made Oxford House in the evening Got good fish & potatoes. A great treat. Attended service in the evening.

Tues. 7 Wind bound, until 5 oclock, Left & pulled against head wind for an island -- but found the wind too strong, & were obliged to bear down for one to leeward, -- where we encamped for the night. M<sup>rs</sup> Evans very much indisposed. Small canoe

Wed. 8 Made 3 portages & slept near Windy Lake. got ducks

Thursday 9. Crossed Windy Lake, head wind. slept above Hill gates

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Slept Breakfasted above Hill gates above White

## fall Lake

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Crossed White fall portage boat & all. took a sketch of the fall & scenery. The Rocks on one bank & perpendicular about 200 feet high -- & broken in every fantastic form imaginable. Encamped on the portage.

Sat 11 Shot plenty of ducks & partridges. Something tired having paddled hard all day. Mrs E is, thanks to a good providence in better health. But the weather is still very unsettled. Cold & Rainy. Some snow today.

Sun 12. Pulling all day the boat not having more than half the water necessary to float her she has been pulled & hauled through the mud. Oh the pain of being necessitated to travel sabbath after sabbath. But by God's grace I do it no more. If I cannot get a canoe to Cumberland I shall remain at home. The Lord direct! Encamped below the last portage.

Mon 13 Head wind. hard pulling. Crossed the portage before breakfast and by pulling far westward in the Lake -- made sail, close hauled, blowing a gale, & raining all day in torrents. Blessed be God he watched over us & in the evening we reached Norway House in health & safety. Praise the Lord!

Tues. 14. Packing & preparing for my winter voyage. M<sup>r</sup> Jacobs has removed to Rossville, and is labouring hard & with great encouragement, to get the houses built for the Indians this fall. All goes well for the people have a mind to work. Mr J lays out the frame work & oversees the erection of not less than nine houses -- several of which are in an advanced state toward completion. The Indians have got out the timber neatly squared, & indeed done every

thing except the laying out.

Wed 15        The boat left this morning & I proceed D V. tomorrow by a canoe. After breakfast went with Mr Ross to the Ind. village. Found M<sup>r</sup> Jacobs with his Rule & Square, and the Indians all busily engaged in erecting their houses. They are generally about 20 by 18 feet but some are larger. Great credit is due to Chief Factor Ross for the strenuous exertions he is making to build the mission premises, for although he has been much disappointed in not procuring hands as expected, he will I have no doubt finish the commodious & substantial mission house for M<sup>r</sup> J & family before winter. He had kindly tendered M<sup>r</sup> J a cow & he who is erecting a house to contain hay & the cow during the winter. In the evening I met the Indians a large congregation assembled. I addressed them on things spiritual & temporal & my address would be some thing curious were it penned. I included Duty to God & to man. Recommended spirituality of mind, and attention to religion. \* Building, clearing chopping, burning, fishing, hunting, & many other matters were briefly noticed. At the close of the service I baptized [blank in MS.] adults & 3 children, & several adults expressed their determination to forsake sin, serve God, & prepare for the ordinance on my return. Commended them to God & his grace, shook hands & bade them adieu until next summer

Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup>        Started at day light. Leaving once more my dear family having only spent two days at home. My mind is much depressed & broken down -- but I hope that God will support & comfort both them & me. I never felt so sensibly at parting & I made me exit with all speed after the parting kiss & painful adieu. Oh may God preserve & bless them during my long absence -- it almost looks like an age to think of -- but it will soon roll away. May my heart be more

loosened from earth & more drawn toward God.

Our canoe is very small & although I have scarcely any baggage yet with our little indispensables & four persons she is top full & deeply laden. Breakfasted at Play Green Lake, found our canoe very leaky hauled her up suspended her & poured water [in] it to detect the leaks, which we endeavoured to stop with gum.

Driven ashore on an island by heavy wind & snow storm at two oclock, where I now write, with an aching heart, and although I am never tempted (Thanks to God) to think I will not get [through] this trip, I often feel something like a wish never to leave home again. Lord save me from ever refusing when thou callest! I am thine & all I have & am! Encamped below the Old Fort.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Blowing hard at day light. Fair wind at six, found the boat which left on Wed. morning, near the Old Fort. Embarked all on board & hauled our canoe under the quarter At nine oclock calm. 11 oclock wind from sea ahead. At 3 fair breeze. Landed at 7 when the wind soon increased to a gale.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> After an uncomfortable night, we have a gale from sea & cannot move an inch. Our green hands set the woods on fire during the night & we were all driven out to the beach. Blowing a gale all day. at five the wind ve[e]red to the westward but blowing too hard to proceed, and right ahead.

Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> Thanks to the Lord we have a head wind, so we all stop in peace over the Sabbath, for should the wind fall the sea cannot get down so as to get off before Monday. Read the morning service before breakfast after which we had prayers. Spent the day in reading, translating the 9<sup>th</sup> Chap of John into Chippewayan. Oh how often has the peaceful & refreshing seasons which I have spent



in God's house, rushed on my mind this day, and sometimes a tear has stolen down my cheek while thinking that I shall perhaps never more meet those assemblies until we meet above Blessed be God for this hope. O let me spend my life & all for Thee!

Mon. 20th Made a short day winds very changable. The boat ran past us at dark. Shot 4 ducks. Blowing hard when we made a landing.

Tues. 21 Blowing a gale from sea all night unable to get away started about ten A M. the old man with his boat out of sight. overhauled him in the rapids below the portage. Carried [it?] over at twice. And encamped above.

Wed 22 Sent the men across to assist the old man with his boat but he was not in sight, so on their return I started, steering myself with a man in the bow, & two on the line. Encamped on an Island far out in Cedar Lake.

Thurs. 23 Blowing a gale all night, with some rain. Set the net but caught no fish. Wind bound until 12 oclock; made the long Traverse by night. Encamped on an island near the main land.

Friday 24 Found a band of Indians at the mouth of the River conversed & prayed with them. We got a share of their provision, Ducks & sturgeon, for which we gave them a few charges of powder & shot. This exchange was mutually acceptable, as we were much in need of provision & they were very anxious to shoot geese Slept in the willows on the Sascatchewan above Muddy Lake


Sat. 25. Made a short day being obliged to hunt for our living. Shot 7 ducks & two minks -- these we reserved for the Sabbath -- and satisfied ourselves with a small piece of pimecaegun. Saw two tents of Indians from Moose Lake. conversed with them on

the subject of religion. They gave us three white-fish all they had, except what was in the kettle of which we got a share.

Sun. 26      Encamped at the Main Branch, among willows. Raining during the night. How good God is to us, we have never had rain in the canoe since leaving Norway House, although we have had heavy rain on sundays & during the night at different times. Prayers in the forenoon, when God was present to bless us with his salvation. Praised be his holy name!

Mon 27      Started about 2 oclock this morning and made the Rivier Du Pas about 5 P.M. At the request of Mr Budd the Missionary of the Church Miss<sup>y</sup> Soc. I attended Service with the Indians. The chief at the close of my discourse asked several questions, such as, How we got the word of God? How long have the white people had it? When the Great Spirit comes to bless you do you see him? Then, How do you know he comes into the place? With the answers given he expressed himself satisfied. I baptized the infant son of Mr Budd & a child of my Interpreters.

Tues. 28      Started at day light and paddled & tracked all day. Bought six geese.

Wed 29      Started at 4 oclock. Found an Indian on the Point watching Geese. We stopped and spoke when he immediately told us  that he was very desirous to be a christian, that he had already put away one of his wives & wished to be instructed & his family baptized. I gave him some instructions & directed him to meet me at Cumberland next spring. He promised to do so. Encamped near the winter portage

Thurs. 30      Overtaken today at breakfast by Custad & an Indian in a small canoe. made Cumberland House at sun set, the lake so

shallow, that we were obliged to land a mile from the Fort & carry over land. Found M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Pherson & his people in good health, and some at least endeavouring to serve God. There are about 100 hunters belonging to this post, many of whom are anxious for a missionary & nearly all willing to hear & be instructed.

I was much disappointed in not finding a canoe, M<sup>r</sup> Harriot having changed his mind after leaving Norway House, and directed M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> P. to let me proceed by the fall boat. This I cannot do, nor will I ever be compelled to break sabbath after sabbath when without any inconvenience or loss I can keep the Lord's day holy & as a day of rest. I very much regret this as it detained me so at Cumberland that I cannot expect to reach Carlton before the Sunday week, so that instead of spending the day in religious services at that place, I shall pass it somewhere en route, and have very little opportunity with the people, as on the week days they are all busily engaged in various works

Friday 1 Oct. Left at five oclock. paddled through a narrow channel until after dark. Encamped among willows. I have an Indian lad & a half breed. May our voyage be made a blessing to them.

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Started at 3 oclock sometimes carrying our canoe & at other times hauling her in a few inches of water the whole of our things of course are carried, our way being along the channel of the river, in some places hard sand, but often soft mud & hard traveling, having to wade where the channel is crossed by small ponds of stagnant water. A little after day light we reached a branch of the Saskatchewan & embarked. Made a good day & encamped after dark. Got wood for the Sabbath & after our usual service went weary to rest.

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> In a busy encampment. Prayers & service in the forenoon. Read portions of the 14 Chap John. & made remarks therefrom. Enjoying much peace of mind. I have been very much indisposed for several days. Having a severe cold ear ache, & palpitation of the heart. I paddled too hard steering all day yesterday, & find myself well nigh knocked up. I hope God's mercy in this rest day, will be of service to me.

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Started about half past one A.M. Slept at the Pine Encampment above [blank in MS.] Rapids. Broke our canoe

Tues. 5<sup>th</sup> Started at Day break. Broke our canoe. put on shore to repair two or three times today. Saw many Moose Tracks. Encamped about 8 oclock overtook the Boat at Breakfast.

Wed. 6 Raining hard all night. Started in heavy rain. Looking to God for present comfort, & eternal rest. Found the carcass of a moose on which a pair of eagles & a company of crows & smaller gentry were regalling themselves. It was rather too high game, having been killed some time & mostly devoured by the wolves. Saw many fresh tracks Raining hard, wet to the skin, after which it cleared up very cold & before we encamped our paddles canoe line &c as well as ourselves were as stiff as buckram. Encamped at 7 oclock

Thursday 7 Unable to start till day, being in the rapids. The shores of the river very hard & ice along shore very cold. Hauled on the line soon warming us in turns. About ten saw three moose deer walk deliberately into the River and attempt to cross. we paddled out to head them but being in the rapids & they a little above, they secured a safe landing and beat a quick march, leaving us to seek fresh meat elsewhere.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Started at day light. The river is so shoal & the water so unusually low, that hundreds of large stones generally under water now present themselves above the stream, while thousands lie hidden a few inches below the surface, requiring a vigilant & constant look out & much expertness in avoiding them & we frequently are driven to let go our tracking line in order to get around the shoal points & through the rapids which are then mounted by a pole with much difficulty as the least shear sidewise & we must go down stream in danger every moment of being upset & loosing our canoe & its contents & perhaps our lives. God is our preserver. Blessed be his Holy name!

Sat. 9 Made the South Branch of the Saskatchewan which as well as the one we pursue takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains. The Hon Co once had a post on this Branch, but were obliged to abandon it, the Indians being ungovernable & life & property at all times in danger. Strong rapids all day. Obligated to pass a noose around the bow of the canoe lest the side should tear out the water rushing against her with great force. Raining & snowing all day wet to the skin. Encamped a little before sunset & got our wood for the Sabbath.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Raining & snowing. Service in the forenoon. Made a book of eight leaves & filled it with the Rudiments of English easy sentences, the Lord's prayer &c. with a pen. The Indian lad accompanying me being very anxious to learn to read. I hope to spend next Sunday in some post if possible. But must proceed with much expedition, & must spend some sabbaths in the woods. God blesses my soul here but I would fain spend his day more usefully.

I learn with much pleasure that the sabbath is strictly

observed at Cumberland & that Divine Service is performed by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Pherson the gentleman in charge.

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Made the head of the Rapids & encamped near the Womens' Encampment. A high hill of plain land where the voyageur's formerly left their wives when going to York factory.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Made a good day Very cold morning the small bays being full of strong ice. Cold sitting in the canoe & glad to keep warm by paddling.

Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Paddled along expecting to reach Carlton tomorrow, but at 5 o'clock found it nearer than I had anticipated, and paddled hard until 8 o'clock when we arrived in safety. Thanks to Almighty God.

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> Mr Small very kind, and having a man who is about to cross to Fort Pitt he says he will guide me thither.

There are sixteen men attached to this Establishment, and a number of children. I am happy to find very pleasing fruits of M<sup>r</sup> Rundles visit during the summer several of the children being able to repeat the Lord's prayer & other things in the Cree language. Received yestary [sic] a letter from Gov. Sir G. Simpson who is not pleased with M<sup>r</sup> R. I hope to correct the things he complains of. Met the children twice, & preach<sup>d</sup> at 7 P M

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Met the children, teaching them to sing, "Behold the Saviour of mankind" in Cree. All the children speak Cree & few of them English. Service in the evening.

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Preparing to start on Monday across the plains I am to be supplied with five horses, & one which is to be taken for M<sup>r</sup> Small will make our band six 3 for saddle horses & we shall divide our small loads among them. †

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Met the children at nine. preached at 11  
Met the children at 3 & had service in the evening when I bap-  
tized 4 children & married M<sup>r</sup> Pruden & one of the men of the Fort.

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Left Carlton about ten oclock. Crossed an ex-  
tensive plain of undulating land. Passed a salt plain which is  
generally a lake, the water having dried up except in a few spots  
have left a thick crust of beautiful white glauber salt, which seen  
at a distance has every appearance of a Lake covered with snow the  
spots of water looking like open water in a lake. Made the Mountain  
& encamped on its height. It is very much broken being continued  
Ridges & hills with deep ravines, generally forming small lakes some  
of which are as round as a basin. Our guide about sun-set dis-  
coverd two ducks attempt to fly from a small pond near us, but being  
too fat, they fell in the woods, and after a chase of a few minutes  
he secured one the ether by hand. The other we shot. They were  
just lumps of fat, the cook when dressing observed there was no lean  
meat it had all changed to fat. They were not so well flavoured as  
the ducks in the Rivers having a muddy taste.

Tues. 19 Rainy night. No tent. No oilcloth, and we got  
a good steeping. I got up, had my bed tied up wishing to keep it  
dry. And had an hour or twos sleep before day light, stretched on  
the grass & found no inconvenience from the moisture beneath & above.  
Started about seven oclock. Breakfasted about ten, but our horses  
did not appear to have found their appetites. About noon we crossed  
an Indian fresh trail where we found three sharp pointed sticks  
having the points blacked with charcoal & the middle one having a  
red stripe around it. One our Indian guide reaching them he stopped

& appeared in a brown study. I enquired what these were. He informed me that a band of Crees passed here yesterday in alarm. These sticks were left to inform their enemies that they were aware of their being near their encampment the black was a sign that they were ready to defend themselves, & the Red is the war sign. Encamped at sun set. Looking sharp after our horses, and our Indian will look sharp for himself. He being something alarmed & wide awake.

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Started at Sun rise. Saw tracks of Indians about noon. At one, Saw a Cow Buffaloe shot her but found her poor & sickly having been wounded. Started a Band of Red Deer about 20 in number Made Kenozaw<sup>e</sup> River (Fish River) Flocks of Ducks & geese.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Started about 50 or more Red Deer. Saw 9 Buffaloe -- but could not come at them, not wishing to run & tire our horses. Tea. Tho<sup>s</sup>

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Started at sun rise, after a cold night, & by no means a warm morning. Saw buffaloe all day sometimes four or five bands being in sight at once. being anxious to have a nearer view although, we often passed within two or three hundred yards. I gave chase to four and rode beside them some time. Considering their clumsy appearance and awkward gait they run well, keeping my horse on a full gallop to not fall behind. Besides abundance of Buffaloe we saw numbers of Red Deer. these are not so tame as the former, but more so than the Deer in Canada. The Buffaloe are constantly attended by wolves, these generally made off as we approached. ^



not however without giving us a tolerably close inspection, sometimes within 100 or 150 yards, and while breakfasting a large handsome fellow, apparently [sic] very fat, stood watching us about 20 yards off for some time, when satisfied he trotted deliberately away stopping frequently & looking at us with apparent curiosity, perhaps smelling the broiling steaks & longing to join the party at breakfast.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Having encamped near the Fort we washed & dressed, and after about two hours ride reached Fort Pitt. Was kindly received by M<sup>r</sup> Fisher. Few Indians present. I was sorry to find that here, as well as at Carlton, the men of the Establishment were on Saturday starting for the Plains so that the Sabbath instead of being a day of rest, and in my visit a day of religious instruction, so far as they are concerned it must be a day of labour & hunting. This cannot fail to make an unfavourable impression upon the Indians. They must either think our instructions respecting the Sabbath unnecessarily strict & severe, or otherwise that the Hon. Com. Servants are not practically christians. In the face of this difficulty I see but one course open, which is to preach the truth, & should it bear hard or injuriously upon the character of the Hon Com or any of their servants with themselves rests the remedy. Reformation & consistency. During the day I was introduced to the Principal Chief of all the Crees. He is a rather genteel looking indian and at present an invalid having been wounded last summer in an affray with Slave Indians The ball entering on his right side just above his hip and passing along his back remains still in his left shoulder.

I gave him a brief outline of the leading Truths of Christianity |  
He assented to their suitableness to the wants & ignorance of himself

and his people. He appeared very serious while I assured him that this was the only remedy which could be applied to remove the miseries of his day, and to save them from sin & eternal pain. He sat mute for some time evidently in deep thought, and then remarked "I believe all this. Last summer I was as I have always been hunted by my enemies, and when driven from place to place with my people, knowing not whither to flee, I lifted up my eyes & hands alone to the Great Spirit. I said, "Great Spirit I live in this way because I am an Indian, because I am in darkness. O send me help and give me a little rest & peace before I die." I endeavoured to shew him that the Great Spirit, who pities poor miserable sinners, was now answering that prayer, by sending his servants to teach him the truth. Pointed him to Christ for help & to Christianity here & heaven hereafter for rest. He said he could not open his eyes without seeing that it must be God who had heard his prayer & sent this news to him.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Divine Service at 11 o'clock the people of the Establishment attendi[n]g, but few in number. A few Indians present. at the close of the Service a band of about 116 Indians (men) were seen coming along the opposite bank of the River generally on horseback. They were busy in crossing all the afternoon & evening & I had no opportunity of speaking with them today. They received a supply of rum, and are at this moment carousing without the Fort.

This band have been on a horse stealing expedition and four of them last evening brought seven horses, which they had stolen from the Snake Indians. A little rum & a small piece of cloth purchased one, and the whole would be purchased with a gallon of Spirits reduced to six gallons of grog.

[Here we find the servants of the Hudsons Bay Company acting as receivers of stolen goods knowing them to be stolen -- and engaging extensively in the sale of grog to the natives. the usual excuse for the infamous traffic in other parts of the territory is the presence of Opposition traders, but here no such excuse can be adduced, for the company have the trade exclusively to themselves without the shadow of an op[p]onent to interfere with them. the reason why the unhallowed traffic is permitted is easily understood -- 1000 p<sup>r</sup> cent profit. what matters it when such an enormous profit as this is realised what becomes of the wretched natives. what matters it, if, while in a state of helpless intoxication they part with every article of value they possess in exchange for fire water, and after quit the Companys establishment for their inhospitable wilds with scarcely enough of ammunition to preserve them from starvation all this matters nothing -- the 1000 p<sup>r</sup> cent is secured! and the Company enriched.

The Servant of God states here what he observed with his own eyes and doubtless his report is true -- still there are men found so completely lost to every sense of moral rectitude as to deny the existence of such crying evils. Yea they shall have their reward! with such facts as we have here narrated attested by undisputable authority, how dare the advocates of the monopoly tell us that consequences so fatal to the prosperity of the Indian tribes would follow the abolition of the charter. what worse consequences could possibly ensue to the natives than those described were the trade thrown open to free and untrammelled competition tomorrow?]

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The portion enclosed in brackets has been inserted in the diary on a separate page. It is written in ink and is probably in a different handwriting.

I endeavoured here as every where, to enforce the observance of the Lord's day assuring the people that in addition to its being God's commandment to keep the day in resting from labour, that it was the desire of the Directors in London of Sir G. Simpson & of the Council that the Day should be a day of rest and religious worship in every Establishment & that the men should attend to no labour save works of necessity. Stating that the Gentleman in charge would exercise a christian judgment in those things and that all must in obedience to God's law submit themselves thereto.

I feel much pain in being compelled to say, that, while I found M<sup>r</sup> F every thing I could require in personal kindness & attention, I saw much to be disapproved. The Indian trade with a band of 116 Indians on the Lord's Day, and they were drinking all Sunday evening & night. I very much fear, that the audacious [sic] practice of horse stealing is too much encouraged by the Hon Com. establishment, stolen horses, known to be such, being purchased by the Gentleman in charge for the Com<sup>y</sup> and by the servants. I saw a horse this morning worth in Canada about sixty dollars & in Red River about the same amount which was last night (Sunday) bought by one of the Comp<sup>y</sup>'s servants for less than half a crown's worth of Rum mixed with a Kettle of water & given as Spirits. An Indian when half drunk will sell every thing he has on earth for enough to satisfy his appetite. These bands frequently bring in at one trade 4 or 6000 pounds of grease & tallow, 6 or 800 pounds of dried meat beside dressed moose & Buffalo skins & the whole band seldom take more than £5 worth of goods or clothing, nearly all being paid for in rum & water, & a little tobacco.

Mon. 25 I visited a poor old woman this morning, who has been

sick ever since last spring. she wishes very much to die in peace, and has for some time past been praying to God. But is very ignorant knowing nothing about religion but to make the sign of the cross, considering this prayer. I endeavoured to throw some light into her mind pointed her to Christ, enjoined repentance and in prayer commended her to God.

M<sup>r</sup> Fisher's daughter has during my short stay acquired a tolerable knowledge of the Cree character & can read with her alphabet before her any thing which is written. I should be glad to spend a day more here but if I do I cannot reach Edmonton before Sunday next, being a long five days from this place. The Boat not yet arrived from Carlton. This evening I baptized the old woman spoken of above. she is truly a christian although an ignorant one, but I have no doubt a sincere one & that she will perform all as far as she knows to be her duty.

At this post during my stay the Indians have brought in 8000<sup>lb</sup> of grease in bladders averaging 8<sup>lb</sup> each besides 700<sup>lb</sup> of dried pounded meat 200<sup>lb</sup> of dried meat in the piece, & great numbers of robes & quantities leather. For 100 Bladders of grease or 800<sup>lb</sup> they receive 5 quarts of Rum in an eight gallon keg filled up with water to the bung for four bladders or 32 to 35<sup>lb</sup> 18 inches of roll tobacco. A horse was on sunday evening bought for 15 half pints of rum & water mixed as above or for about 1 1/2 pints of rum. This was a stolen horse.

Tuesday 26 M<sup>r</sup> Fisher furnished me three horses & the three of those I brought from Carlton I take along Left at sun rise, grieved that I had not had more opportunities with the people of the Establishment & the Indians. Made a good day.

Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Made a good day saw numbers of Buffaloe all day.

Thurs. 28<sup>th</sup> Shot a Cow. & had good breakfast boiling part of the paunch & eating as much fresh meat as we could manage. Made about 45 miles. Encamped on a beautiful plain on white fish Lake

Friday 29 Started at day break. one horse very lame 10 balls for a large Beaver at Ft Pitt.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Rode about 18 miles to breakfast. After w[hic]h I left the men & rode on not knowing the real distance to the Fort I rode hard until dark not seeing any signs of approaching the Fort. No tracks of men or horses or any thing denoting its vicinity and the night overtook me, no great coat -- no blankets, no axe. I must proceed. About nine I saw a fire far across the plains, & without further consideration whether friends or foe surrounded it I rode across, and found a family of Assineboins who could neither understand Cree or Saulteaux. I learned nothing but that they wanted tobacco, of which I had none with me I left them after warming myself, & made the Fort at length about ten oclock.

Found M<sup>r</sup> Rundle & all well.

Sun. 31. Preached twice. Small congregations. It appears that the influence of popery has been exerted since the winter against the Canadians & half breeds attending our services. The morning service was in English, The Evening in Cree & French I am happy to find M<sup>r</sup> R making some progress in both, and I heard him pray in both french & Cree. May God prosper his labours.

Mon. 1 Dec Nov Found M<sup>r</sup> Harriot the gentleman in charge & one of the best Cree speakers in the country, particularly anxious to render me every assistance in translating | we commenced with the

## baptismal service

Tues 3 Still at the Service of Bap<sup>m</sup> As in every other translation much patience, & research into the radical import & derivation of words is indispensable, but we progress I trust surely if slowly

Wed. 3 Reading. Mr Rundle has something here to contend with in the Fort being generally Roman Catholic, and I fear some remarks made & wishes expressed by Sir G. Simpson have been taken advantage of so as not to favour Mr Rundles labours.


Thurs. 4<sup>th</sup> Closely confined to translating. Beginning to get the spirit of the work. M<sup>r</sup> H. is indefatigable, & an excellent man at the work.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Battle River is the place of proposed settlement of the Crees. M<sup>r</sup> Harriot is decidedly in favour of the location wood -- fish, land water, & all things are suitably presented at this place. I have authorized Mr R immediately to ascertain the number of families willing to settle & to write by the spring boats, a full statement of such with wants & prospects to be laid before the Council.

Commenced today the Ten Commandments. Having finished the Service of Baptism.

Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> Finished to day the Ten Com<sup>ds</sup> & Four verses of a hymn in Long Metre "Jesus my all to heaven is gone."

I have during the week spent some time in several conversations with the Indian who accompanied us from F<sup>t</sup> Pitt the poor fellow's heart is broken up & I trust he will become a follower of Jesus Christ.

Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Preached at 11 from Micah 7 C -- 18 & 19. I trust God applied his word  a larger congregation than last sunday.

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Preached at 11 & administered the Lord's Supper.  
 [M<sup>r</sup> R in the afternoon] <sup>✓</sup> At 3 p[reache]d ag[ai]n & in Gallic at 7. A  
 blessed day.

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Copying the translations for M<sup>r</sup> H. as follows  
 Bap. Service. Ten Com<sup>s</sup> Collects for Peace & Purity The Creed  
 Lord's Prayer & several hymns

Thurs. 18<sup>th</sup> Left with Mess<sup>rs</sup> Harri[o]t & Rundle for  
 Assin<sup>bn</sup> about ~~two inches of~~ no snow at Edmonton.

Sat 20 Reach<sup>d</sup> As<sup>bn</sup> about 2 in. snow. the River open.

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Preached in morning & M<sup>r</sup> R in aft<sup>n</sup> but few per-  
 sons.

Tues. 23<sup>rd</sup> Left with 3 men & my Interpreter & thirteen dogs  
 having 2 sleds & the carriol[e]. Too warm to travel well being above  
 zero.

Wed. 24 River generally open save near the shore & often  
 times the strip of ice is so narrow that the sled barely finds a pas-  
 sage. The day has been some thing cooler but still rather too warm --  
 but tonight I think the glass is about 4 below zero. I am thanks to  
 God very happy & need nothing earthly & desire only to be more faith-  
 ful to my God.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Made a short day being unable to proceed before  
 day-light. Rapids all day and sometimes compelled to take the woods  
 the river being entirely open.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Started at 3 A M. Made a good day no rapids  
 until afternoon. entered Slave River about 2 o'clock. Crossed several  
 points.

Sat. 27. Started at day. Raining a little Left Slave

✓ The bracketed portion is inserted between the lines



River at 2 o'clock made Slave lake at sun set. Blowing a gale the ice as smooth as glass fell & blew several yards seated on the ice -- but the wrong way the sleds & carriol running sidewise. Made an island & encamped. The wind blew a hurricane before mid night. The trees fell around but God mercifully preserved us.

Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> Encamped all day. Held service twice the men very attentive & anxious to be instructed.

Mon. 29 Started about one o'clock A.M. found open water at about 4 which compel[1]ed us to put about we lost about 2 hours, but made the fishery at dusk being 64 miles from where we started men self & dogs some thing weary.

Tues. 30<sup>th</sup> Last night the poor man of the House pressed me to baptize his family, and being unable to go to the Fort, having been confined to his bed nearly 2 years, I delayed starting this morning and baptized his children

Wed 8 Dec. My time has been employed here very satisfactorily. I have married 9 couple & baptised 70 The children sing 2 hymns tolerably well, some of them correctly so that the others will acquire them<sup>ly</sup> They also understand the alphabet, and can read & write most words after a little examination.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Left about two o'clock, accompanied by all the men of the Establishment except one, the object in the men doing this was once more to hear a few words of instruction, and to join once more in prayer which we did in our evening in our encampment. God blessed us greatly, and two stout hearted half breeds sat for an hour after listening to instruction, and weeping at the thought that perhaps they would never more hear these good words. But I trust

they will!

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Made a short day very bad rough woods & fallen timber going on an average [sic] about two miles an hour.

Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Rather better day. Started at 2 A M. Encamped at sunset 3 oclock.

Sun. 12 Snugly encamped. Held services. A day of peace

Mon 13 Started about 2 A M. very thick woods & fallen timber.

Tues 14. Crossed Smoky River which takes its name from three craters which constantly emit a strong sulphurous smell with much smoke. I had no opportunity of examining them in the winter. Encamped in Burned River

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> About 2 started about 1 1/2 hours in climbing the banks before we reached the plain. All the Rivers coming down from the Mountains have very high banks not less perhaps than from 4 to 600 hundred feet, and the nearer you approach the higher, while as you reced the banks, as on the sasatchewan become lower & lower, until nothing but a flat of willows, and finally then the river winds its way through a bed of rushes on a bank but a few inches above the surface, & finally its channel is found with banks under water, until it is lost in the Lake. I leave others to remark on this, to me a proof that all the country from the Mountains was once under water & formed one vast lake or lakes. Reached the Arrived in sight of the Fort about eleven, which with the River burst upon us at once, from the summit of the high bank nearly opposite to which on a flat of a few acres surrounded by almost cloud capt hill[s] is seen a group of small buildings, but so far beneath you that you almost mistake them for a heap of stones. We descended the bank into a deep ravine

hill after hill, mound after mound appears, over which as you pass, you descend a little, & then still deeper, until at length you find yourself in the little winding stream in the bottom from this we passed to the river, still open & being rapid. found water on the ice, and after passing about a mile up we crossed & soon reached the Fort Found M<sup>r</sup> Boucher an English gentleman in charge with seven men, & some families.

Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup>            Conversing on the great subject of Rel. Service  
in the Evening

Fri. 17            Service as usual

Sat 18            "

Sun 19            Morning service. Baptized Jane one person & married  
one couple, M<sup>r</sup> Boucher & wife.

Mon 20<sup>th</sup>            About eleven left with four men & ten dogs accom-  
panied by M<sup>r</sup> Boucher & a man with two extra trains of dogs M<sup>r</sup> B has  
been exceedingly kind, and renders me great assistance by this addition-  
al service.

Tues. 21            Parted with M<sup>r</sup> B. -- the man & one extra train ac-  
companies me today. made near Smoky River.

Wed. 22            Passed Smoky River encamped near Heart River Much  
water on the ice. Drove my own carriol empty or with the travelling  
case gun bedding &c as load. The River being too wet, sent three men  
on ahead to make road, by their making a late march we shall have a  
night frost giving us a hard road, a great advantage when the river is  
covered with water.

Thurs 23            Started at 4 Made a good day walked with blistered  
feet the snow-shoes cutting at every step.

Fri. 24.            Started at 4 Made a short [journey], snowing all  
night and all day, heavy walking no roads, having blown full of

snow, River wet & snow shoes clogged.

Sat. 25 Started at 5 found the two men about a mile ahead, made a very short day, unable to see snowing thickly water, water scraping sledge & knocking snow-shoes all day encamped at River a Cadet.

Sun 26 Encamped, meditation, prayer, & reading

Mon 27 Started at two A M. Made a good day, found less water, but very deep snow.

Tues. 28 Still deep snow, but not much water.

Wed. 29<sup>th</sup> Made Battle River at breakfast time, noon, being our 10<sup>th</sup> day, and half way between the Posts. Our provisionings very small, but trust we shall get through without want.

Thurs. 30 Made good day. Cold, & windy

Friday 31 The year closes with a sorry day. About noon we heard a rushing like a fall of water, and about 3 oclock it began to rain, with a gale from the south, so warm that we could almost imagine it came out of some tropical oven. Raining in torrents, and completely drenched before we could make our encampment. At night it froze hard & every thing was winter in the morning the snow being every where crusted. My cogitations while sitting steaming tonight before a large fire, wet through, burning before & freezing behind are not easily penned. I thought and wept while thinking of the blessed seasons I have spent on watch night at Hamilton St<sup>t</sup> Catharines, St<sup>t</sup> Clair, Guelph & several other dear spots, now far away, and my spirit seemed for a moment to be in the midst of some of those happy assemblies, while here I am about 3000 miles distant my family 1500. I found prayer, & grace necessary, to make me contented & happy.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Welcome another year! A happy New Year to my dear family & friends far away. Started about 3 oclock mild, about zero.

Breakfasted at nine. Sent a man up the hill to raise a road for the dogs intending to make a cut across the point, but to his & our surprise found as he ascended a warmer climate, so that the trees all hung with water & he came down drenched, & we were obliged to keep the river. At one o'clock, we heard a rushing sound like the fall of water, & soon had a few drops of rain. we sought an encampment, but before we could find one a south gale with heavy rain drenched us completely, the wind being as warm as if proceeding from a furnace. the rain fell heavily for about 2 hours when it cleared up very cold, with a north westerly wind. The River is exceedingly crooked & the men not acquainted with the water are afraid to cut the points, which keeps us travelling in rather too serpentine [sic] a manner & must lengthen our voyage.

Sun. 2 Encamped. Prayer & service twice. Cold day.

Mon 3 Started about 4 o'clock. Made a good day. Less snow the rain having settled it several inches. Made the old Fort Vermillion toward evening, & encamped near the Portage.

Tues. 4 Two days past we have been on small allowance and this morning we divided our last morsel among all hands. Our dogs have eaten nothing since Sunday night. Started a little before day & climbed the hill to make the portage. Walking hard with blistered toes, in snowshoes all day. Shot a small white partridge which divided among six of us gave each a mouthful, which with a mug of tea made our supper, & we went hungry to rest I slept so soundly that during the night one of the poor famishing dogs made an hearty meal out of my buffaloe skin which covered me, and awoke me by hauling it from me in attempting to tear off another piece. I was much struck this evening, by a little circumstance. This morning as I before

observed we divided our last morsel, which was dry meat the but our Beaver Indian guide being some distance ahead when we breakfasted got no breakfast share of our scanty break meal. On encamping at night, the old Canadian who had reserved a small piece of dried meat about two inches square all day in his bosom, pulled it out, and handed it to the Indian saying poor Castore had nothing since last night, this was the only morsel of bit of meat we had excepting the partridge.

Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> Started at day light, thick woods, & much fallen timber, snowing heavily all day. Hungry & faint. The poor fellows wading through deep snow. The dogs "knocked up" & myself anxiously looking for the fort bringing up the rear. About one we fell in with a brake of briars, and eat a handful of hard frozen tips. They had a fine flavour, & I fancied them excellent fruit, which arose perhaps from their being frozen, but more probably from my stomach being empty. Fell on the River in the afternoon & reached the Fort at dark, all well & in good health, if a good keen appetite be a sure criterion.

Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> Preached to the few, and thought on the many.

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Reading & writing

Sat 15. This week has been spent in reading & writing

Sun 16 Preached twice, congregation larger the men having returned who were absent since my arrival.

Mon. 17 Three men & two sleds left on Sat. & this morning I started with one sled & carriol. Passed the men's encampment about one oclock.

Tues. 18 Breakfasted at the men's second encampment. We took the sleds about three oclock & encamped together. The chief of the Beaver Indians came to visit us with six or seven young men &

boys, -- having fallen on our track today. he arrived about ten o'clock, & I spent the night in conversing with him. He appears an intelligent man and expressed the greatest satisfaction on the prospect of having a missionary. He purposes having a general council next spring & sending me word where his old men think they could settle & find fish, land, wood &c necessary for their comfort.

Wed. 19 Started about 4 o'clock.

Thurs 20 Breakfasted near half w at Ind. Encamp<sup>t</sup>.

Fri. 21 Made half way at noon.

Sat 22 Made River Pike River. Crows at night Sup<sup>tn</sup>

Sun. 23 Encamped all day

Wed 26 Arrived at night at Ft Chippewayan, where I was kindly welcomed by Mr Campbell, whom I found to be anxious to render my stay as comfortable as possible.

Sunday Preached twice.

Sun. 30 During the week, I have been constantly engaged instructing the people, and my room has seldom been vacant. Several have learned the Lord's prayer & begin to sing the Hymns in Cree. May God bless them.

Sun. 6 Preached on Baptism & Bap<sup>d</sup> three children of Mr Cam<sup>l</sup>. Expounded the Lord's Prayer in the Evening.

Mon. ~~31~~ 7 Conversed with three candidates for baptism # the Lord graciously prepares these people. The good word of God breaks up the fallow ground of their hearts & I trust the seed sown will yield an eternal harvest of happiness & praise.

Tues Feb 8 Today two Indians arrived Chippewayans with whom I had a conversation on the subject of Xtnty. My sleds left today

for Isle [a la] Croix

Wed 9 Feb      The people are very anxious to be instructed & my room is rarely without an attentive visitor listening to the truth of God, at the feet of Jesus.

Thurs 10      Some begin to read & write the Cree language, particularly M<sup>r</sup> Campbel[1]s daughter who purpose[s] teaching her mother & other females in the Fort.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>      Friday 11. Writing the Address to the Beaver Ind<sup>s</sup> at Denvegan & Vermillion. This Tribe have already expressed at intervals their anxiety for Christian instruction there are about 110 Hunters with about 150 women & probably 250 children or more, -- (See Address) M<sup>r</sup> Campbel who has spent nearly thirty years among them gives the greatest encouragement on their readiness to embrace the truth. Their country is poor in Animals & impoverished in furs, they need the gospel & civilization as an attendant blessing.

I also have an Address to the Chippewayan Nation who I understand in council last spring expressed a desire to be supplied with a Missionary, and who are already much impressed in favour of Xtnty. The object of these addresses is to ascertain where these nations can spend their summer season where the Missionaries can have an opportunity of instructing them, and where provision can be made for the support of the women the aged and the children during the winter.

The selection of such a spot has many difficulties, & I chose rather to leave it with themselves as should our resources fail, the reflections might be severe on a Missionary who should cho[ose] & draw them to such a place.

Today two Indians have arrived. One is the son of one [of] the



principal men of the nation.

My Interpreter has this day translated two hymns into the Chippewayan language. This nation speaks a guttural, nasal, hissing & strongly aspirated language with many combined consonants, entirely different from any thing found among the Ojibways & kindred dialects I have for the last year been labouring hard to form an alphabet, in which I begin to flatter myself I shall succeed. Any attempt to write it with English or any other letters retaining their original sounds is utterly impracticable

This Alphabet is, like that in which we write & print the Ojib-way, Cree, & Mushkego, & which is equally adapted to the Ottawas Pottawatamies Algonquin Missesaugas & kindred tribes, syllabic, and will answer for the Chippewayan, Slave Tribe, Beaver, Sercees, Carriers & other nations west of the mountains and about Prince William's & Nootka Sound. I humbly pray that I may have wisdom to complete it, should I be successful we shall be able to print & teach every Indian ~~tribe~~ language between existing within the boundari[e]s of the Atlantic & pacific E & W & the Arctic Sea & the Mississippi N. & S. excepting the Esquimaux tribes.


Sunday 13      Baptized 13 & married 2 couple, & administered the Lord's supper receiving five communicants.

Mon. 14      Left Athabasca, my sleds being 4 days ahead. Left Tho<sup>s</sup>. Made the Main River

Tues. 15      Started about 3      Encamp<sup>d</sup> at steep banks -- passing the men's encamp<sup>t</sup> at Bkfast time.

Wed 16      Started about 4      Very cold, one of the men froze his foot. Encamp<sup>t</sup> Poplar P<sup>t</sup>

Thurs. 17      Left at day 1<sup>t</sup>      Cold      Enc[ampe]d below Red River

- Fri. 18 Very cold Started about 3 o'clock Enc<sup>d</sup> near Upper salt lake one man froze his face sorely.
- Sat 19 Started about 1 o'clock. Breakfasted at the mens encampment having made their  day. Enc<sup>d</sup> on Little River. Saw some Red Deer & thousands of tracks. Cold.
- Sun 20 Fine morning. Hear the south wind blowing a gale on the Hills but all is calm below. Enc<sup>d</sup> at Rapid Pambinau. Thanks to almighty God for his continued mercy. About one o'clock a tremendous south gale the trees bending before the storm & falling around us but a kind Provid<sup>ce</sup> watched over us.
- Mon 21 Started about 1 oc' & found the sleds & the Packets from Isle a la Crosse before day light. Thankful to receive news from my family & friends at Norway House & elsewhere.
- Tues 22 Made the Sulphur.
- Wed 23 Crossed & Encamped on Portage La Loche
- Thurs 24 passed the Packet Encamp<sup>ts</sup>
- Friday 25 Made Isle a la Crosse
- Sat 26 Weary, but in good health. Blessed be God for all his great goodness!
- Sunday 27 Two services. Men attentive.
- Mon 28 Prayer in the Evening with a short lecture
- Sat. 5 Prayer & Exhortation every evening during the week & have been endeavouring to instruct & lead the candidates for baptism.
- Sun 6 Two services as usual. I trust some are very seriously disposed the Lessons & Psalms were read in English & French. the Prayers in English Ojibway & Cree & the sermon interpreted with Cree half french -- all present understanding both languages.

After the Morning services I married three couple one being the Gentleman in charge, who although having lived with the wife for thirty eight years gladly embraced this first opportunity of being married by a minister. I also baptized 14 persons one of whom was the wife of the Centl<sup>mn</sup> above mentioned.

Mon 7 Preparing to leave. Nothing could exceed the kindness of Mr M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie who loaded me with provision & would have given me a twelve months stock could I have carried it.

Tues 8 Started after breakfast.

Wed 9 Up & off about 4 oclock

Thurs 10 Made Green Lake at noon.

Sunday 13 Married 1 couple & baptized the woman.

Mon 14 Left ~~at~~ before day light made 22 miles to breakfast. here I was kindly supplied with 4 excellent dogs.

Tues 15 Started at 2 oclock & encamped about 3 oclock

Wed 16 Made Carlton.

Sun 20 Baptized 3 children & preached twice

Mon 21 Left Carlton. Heavy snow having fallen yesterday we can see no sign of a track although the two sleds left on friday. Made the encamp<sup>t</sup>.

Tuesday 22 No track yet & could not find encampments, walking all day.

Wed. 23 Very warm & the snow wet & heavy blistered feet & weary, the dogs being unable to haul me. found a cache of pemecan

Thurs 24 Very warm much water on the ice but very cold my feet in dreadful order. But there is no stopping to cure -- and by walking on blisters burst & harden. found a cache

Friday Good 25 Plodding through snow & water ever since

the sun was up. ○having walked all night since about ten o'clock we encamped about noon on

Sat. 26 & remained mending our shoes & snowshoes & harness &c

Sun. 27 Easter day. Encamped above Coal's Falls.

Mon 28 Started about 1 o'clock & encamped at two, knee deep in water carriol afloat & train under water, -- so that all our things are soaked. Dried & slept well.

Tues 29 Started about two, made the men's encamp<sup>t</sup> about 2 where we found them.

Wed 30 Started about 1 o'clock made Sturgeon River at day break & the fort at night having walked & run with an occasional ride about 65 miles since morning.

Thursday 31 Stiff & weary & almost blind, but sound in health & blessed with great peace of mind. Men arrived from Moose Lake, so that I can return with them, which will be some saving of trouble & expence ○ to the Hon. Com.

Friday 1 April. Prayers This morning an old Indian who has offered great opposition to Christianity came to see me. He stated that he had become satisfied that religion alone could make him & his people happy and that already he had thrown away for ever his old superstitions together with his drum rattles & medicines & that he & his family were prepared to attend to Christian Instruction. His son in law has acquired a knowledge of the Cree Alphabet. Several families have during the winter renounced their paganism & resolved to seek for the Truth. This pleasing change, I am informed by the gentleman in charge has been under God's blessing produced by the exertions of one indian whom I baptized at this place last winter.

he has taught several to sing some hymns & to repeat some prayers, they observe the sabbath, & anxiously look for instruction.

The children of the fort have through the attention of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Pherson the gentleman in charge acquired a knowledge of the Creed the Lords Prayer the Ten Com<sup>mdts</sup> & the Catechism, and the people I am informed are leading new lives, since they dedicated themselves to God & his cause by baptism. May He still bless & guide them in the paths of life!

The children come every evening to say their prayers, and nothing would ~~diseatis~~

Sat 2        Conversed with some of the people on the subject of Xtnty.

Sunday 3        Preached twice & baptized 2 children, which have been born since I last visited the post.

Mon. 4        Started about 3 oclock A M, and encamped at the portage, soft day & wading in water for hours.

Tues. 5        Started at day light; having rained & snowed all night the going is miserably bad, marshy & bare mud banks. This afternoon two sledges of dogs broke through the ice & all went in together. I had the bad luck to be one of the company & got a cold bath. I hung on to my sled & the dogs swam out with me. Every thing being wet I had no change so I travelled on until evening, stopping an hour or two at the Pas and taking a cup of warm tea with M<sup>r</sup> Budd. my clothes were sufficiently dry at night so I laid down & slept until about midnight.

Wed 6        Started about 1 oclock A M. A little frost, but after the sun got up we were wading until 2 when we encamped. at the half way Island.

Thurs. 7        Started about 12 oclock at night, breakfasted at

day light, and after wading all night & half the day made Moose Lake House about one oclock. Prayers. Found the people few in number, but striving, I trust, to serve God. The females sing several hymns very well. Started at dark, freezing a little. The but soon becoming warm, deep water in many places on the ice, & some six or eight inches of snow in many places. Encamped at day light, raining hard all wet from head to foot.

Friday 3 Raining & blowing a gale, with thunder & lightning. Snugly encamped on a point in Moose Lake, waiting for frost.