

B
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1835

*Douglas, James (1803-1877) -
Diary
March 3 - October 27, 1835.*

*Transcript.
For second transcript see B-20-1258.*



JOURNAL of JOURNEY FROM PORT VANCOUVER to YORK FACTORY
AND BACK, 1835.

by
SIR JAMES DOUGLAS.

Douglas Private Papers Ser. I.

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DOUGLAS, Sir James
Journal to York Factory, 1835. (Transcript)

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Douglas, Sir James.

1.

Journal of Journey from Fort Vancouver to York Factory
and back, 1835.

Tuesday 3d March, 1835.

Left Fort Vancouver today at nine o'clock with three Boats, manned with 29 Canadians and Iroquois, part of whom are to be left at Fort Colville in order to assist the summer brigade in its descent to Vancouver with the annual returns of Furs, an object which cannot be accomplished by the servants remaining in the Interior, the rest of our party at present intend to retire from the service, and are thus commencing their journey for Canada. We landed at the Saw Mill, and remained there for nearly an hour. It works 12 saws, and cuts about 3500 feet of inch boards during the 24 hours. Proceeding from the Mill the progress of the Boats was greatly retarded by a violent south east wind, accompanied with slight showers of rain, which induced us to encamp for the night a short distance above the Prairie du Thé. The Water of the River is exceedingly muddy, making it quite impossible to perceive either stick or stone even tho' nearly on a level with its surface, owing to this cause chiefly the Boats received some hard knocks during the day's journey, and they are in consequence in a very leaky state. Some patches of snow were observed along the banks of the River. The country on both sides is thickly wooded and offers nothing gratifying to the eye of the traveller.

Wednesday 4th March.

The wind still continuing to blow with great violence we could not leave our encampment before broad day light, and even then we left it, uncertain of being able to pass the lofty basalt rocks which were at a short distance above us, as we advanced the gale appeared to freshen, but on reaching the spot where the difficulties had been anticipated we found things nearly in a state of calm, and during the remainder of the day we

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proceeded onwards at a good steady rate. at three o'clock reached the lower end of the Cascade Portage, and after transporting all cargoes to the upper end we stopped for the night, the boats will be brought up tomorrow morning. The continuation of the Cascade Hills forms the south bank of the River, which is covered with snow to the waters edge, the North bank is comparatively low and both thickly wooded. The whole forms as gloomy [a] prospect as can be well imagined. A little below the Cascades Mr. Ogden and myself landed and walked up following the Indian path thro' the woods, we found four inches of snow on the ground, which has evidently fallen but very lately as on some patches of ground already uncovered, the green grass is fully four inches in length.

Thursday 5th.

At dawn of day the men were on the alert and returned to the Lower end of the Portage for the boats which have passed the night there. The water being low considerable difficulty was experienced in passing the boats, this was done by dragging them along shore sometimes in deep water, at other times over the stones by means of wooded rollers collected from the Indian fishing stages. On reaching the upper end they were turned up and pitched anew, this operation and that of reloading were not finished before eleven o'clock, when all being ready we left the Cascades behind. The wind being favourable, the sails were immediately extended to catch the wellcome breeze which tho' but very gentle proved of great assistance to us during the rest of the day. The chain of Mountains of which Mount St. Helens forms one of the most prominent and well known peaks, joins the North bank of the river, one reach(?) above the Cascades, and directly opposite on the southern bank appears an angle of that range which bounds the south side of the river as far down as the Quick Sand River and from thence running nearly due south ascends to the Umpqua Country, of this chain the two lofty peaks named Mounts Hood and McLoughlin form a part,

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the continuation of these two ranges to the eastward runs parallel with the River and form as it were its Northern and Southern banks, up to the close of this days journey. at the upper end of the Grand Bâtiene (?) snow visible on all sides. Purchased a little fresh Meat from some Indians encamped on the Batiene. These Indians have not yet quitted their winter habitations, but will soon move off to other parts of the country where various kinds of nutritious roots are produced in great abundance, these they collect and use as food. Early in each (?) summer they return to the River to procure Salmon for the exigencies of Winter.

Friday 6th March.

During the night our repose was disagreeably interrupted by a violent Storm of wind accompanied with slight showers, the boats being in a very exposed insecure situation it required our unremitting attention to guard them from injury. At dawn of day we left our encampment, with the wind favourable but still rather violent and squally, we proceeded onwards at a great rate. No snow in the vicinity on the river, vegetation begins to appear on the sloping hills and the face of Nature is everywhere undergoing a rapid change and the eye of the spectator is continually delighted with her varied beauties just bursting into existence.

In ascending the Great Dalles our boat received a slight injury by coming in contact with another. Passed the Smaller Dalles without accident and gained the Falls at 4 o'clock, with the assistance of a considerable concourse of natives the whole property was transported over the carrying place before we encamped, the Boats remain at the lower end. The continuation of the hills mentioned yesterday continue to follow a direction parallel with the river, at times receding from sight and at others approaching to the waters edge.

Saturday 7th.

At dawn of day all the Men proceeded to the place where the Boats were left

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yesterday evening, and with the aid of nearly 70 Indians they were soon carried over, and after making some necessary repairs they were loaded and we proceeded on our journey at ² past ten o'clock A.M. A gentle breeze aided our ascent consistantly and we succeeded in gaining a point covered with willows, a few miles above Day's River before encamping. The Hills on both sides of the River rise to the height of several hundred feet and are very broken and irregular. They are not uniformly covered with vegetation and the numerous strata of vocalnic [volcanic?] rock which project abruptly from their sides gives them a rugged and sterile appearance.

During this days march we passed the entrance of the Falls and John Days River both deriving their sources from the Blue Mountains. Beaver was at one time found abundantly on these streams, but is now nearly extirpated being incessantly exposed to the ravages of the hunters.

The Country to the Southward of this is, I am informed, very beautiful and varied, groves of trees watered by fertilizing streams and extensive prairies succeeding each other alternately. In a country possessing such eminent advantages, agricultural improvements might be introduced, to a considerable extent, and could be continued with a compatively trifling expense. The great evil of this climate is the excessive heat and dryness of summer, but this defect might in a great measure be remedied by the numerous rivulets which would serve to irrigate and diffuse fertility over the whole face of the country.

Sunday 8th March.

Weather cloudy and threatenng rain. Proceeded on our route at half past five o'clock. We made but little progress during the early part of the day, having to ascend a constant succession of rapid current for some distance above our encampment. Passed the Fannel at 12 o'clock and soon after, a gentle breeze which had filled our sails with little effect during the morning's march suddenly freshening up, the boats drove

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away before it at a great rate, overtaken by the night, at a place where no better fuel, than growing willows and wormwood could be procured, with these miserable substitutes, we however succeeded in preparing for ourselves a very comfortable supper. The banks particularly on the south side are less elevated, and are becoming more regular and uniform, as we ascend. No trees of any kind can be observed from the boats. The country all around us, is the most sterile and barren imaginable, the only soil is pure sand producing wormwood, and scanty tufts of grass.

Monday 9th March.

We had last night the company of a few Indians who visited our encampment with the hopes of obtaining a supply of tobacco a gratification to which they appear to be passionately addicted. Their wishes were easily satisfied and they soon left us to return to their homes. The wind still in our favour during some hours after our departure. it afterwards ceased and we continued moving slowly at times with the sitting pole at others paddling until the afternoon when the sails were again hoisted and we proceeded upwards very rapidly.

Encamped at the commencement of the grand rapid.

Tuesday 10

A very stormy night which rendered unremitting attention to the boats necessary. Ascended the Grand rapid with some difficulty but without accident, the river is exceedingly low, and the boats were forced to keep very far out, in order to avoid the shoals which every where obstructed their progress nearer shore. At two o'clock arrived at Fort Nez Percés, where an immense concourse of Indians are assembled from all quarters, consisting of various tribes, namely, Nez Persés under which general name may be included the Pellouches, Walla Wallas, Yakamas, and the scattered inhabitants of the River, who possess but one common language, and derive their different appellations from their places of residence, or some other

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unimportant cause, rather than from any striking national dissimilarity and another tribe called Cayouses whose language is entirely distinct from the others.

Wednesday 11 March

The Boats left Fort Nez Perces at eleven o'clock and I departed soon afterwards, with a small party of three men on horseback to proceed direct across land to Colville. During the first nine miles we followed the banks of the Columbia to the entrance of Lewis and Clarkes River which we crossed by means of a wooden canoe borrowed from a Native resident there. Our route during the remainder of the day never diverged from the North Bank of that River, we encamped at six o'clock in the evening. Two of our horses having become fatigued we left them at an Indian camp, and procured two better ones in their stead.

Thursday 12th

Nothing unusual occurred during the day, our road continues to follow the North bank of the River. Passed several camps of Indians.

Friday 13-

Left Lewis and Clarkes River and proceeded direct across the Country. Passed Flag River, and halted the horses at a small River 2 hours march from the former and encamped at a small Lake.

Saturday 14th

Favoured by a bright moon light we continued our march at half past three o'clock and after five hours walk halted at a small Lake to feed and refresh the horses they are very poor and require to be managed with the utmost care in order that their strength may hold out to the journey's end. The Country through which we are passing, is not possessed of many attractions either in point of beauty or utility. Three varieties of soils have come under my observation which I will attempt to describe. The first and best quality is found in the vicinity of water and is evidently formed of decomposed vegetable matter, as in these situations

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the abundant moisture is highly conducive to vegetable life. This soil is of a glossy black colour and is thickly covered with grasses. I did not examine the subsoil, but if it equals the surface in quality it will answer exceedingly well for Agricultural purposes. The next in quality is a vegetable mould alloyed with a large mixture of sand of a reddish colour, and a subsoil of pure unmixed sand. It produces a kind of grass, with a slender stalk rounded with pointed extremity, a number of stalk arising from a connected bunch of roots, with spans between each, having nearly two thirds of the whole surface quite unproductive and perfectly bare of vegetation. This grass is very succulent and nourishing and of so elastic a quality as to resist the weight and pressure of snow and moisture and stands erect on its stalk throughout the winter which preserves it from speedy decay, and renders it as it were a kind of natural hay. This variety is susceptible of improvement, and will I doubt not will improve of itself by the annual decomposition of its own production. The third kind is merely sand which produces the largest species of the wormwood, with very little of any thing else. Encamped in the Spokan woods. Between Nez Perces and these woods have not seen a single tree.

Sunday 15

Encamped at Spokan House.

Monday 16

Little Falls

Tuesday 17

Fools River

Wednesday 18

Adsieve (?)

Thursday 19

Colville

Wednesday 25

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Received letters from Vancouver dated 14 Mar and Nez Perces 21 March

7 days to Nez Perces, $4\frac{1}{2}$ days to this. Total $11\frac{1}{2}$ days including stoppages.

Friday 27

Boats arrived from Okanagan this evening.

Saturday 4th April

Rainy wet morning and the atmosphere is overcharged with vapours, as to ^{leave?} have no room for any hopes of a speedy change. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, we determined to leave Colville as we cannot consistently with our instructions postpone our departure another minute, All the necessary arrangement being completed we recommenced our journey precisely at nine o'clock A.M. with two boats in which we embarked 4 passengers and 23 working men. The banks of the river on both sides rise in some places quite abruptly, in others by successive stages as it were, that is a steep ascent succeeded by a flat horizontal surface leading to the next ascent and so on to their greatest elevation varying from 2 to 300 feet above the level of the River. These Hills are at no distance and confine the view to the course of the River a circumstance which with their general sterile and rugged aspect gives a disagreeable appearance to the whole scenery.

Some of the lower projecting points have a pretty effect, but assuredly owe most of their attraction to the strong contrast offered by their rugged neighbors. The tree most commonly met with here is the Pin rouge, which grows generally over the whole face of the country. Encamped 5 miles below the Mountain Goat River.

Sunday 5th.

A fine clear morning. Continued our route at 5 o'clock, at $6\frac{1}{2}$ past the Mouton Blanc River at 11 the Flat Head River and at half past six in the evening we encamped at the River des

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The Country we have passed today is much of the same description as that of yesterday.

Monday 6th

At 5 o'clock this morning we are once more on the move, a thick dense fog which did not disperse until we nearly reached McGillivray's River, rendered all the surrounding objects quite indistinct. McGillivrays or Coutonais River is about 100 yards at its mouth and derives the water from the Rocky Mountains. The Coutonais Post is built upon this River, the journey to which occupies about 22 days by water. At this place found a camp of Indians belonging to the Little Chiefs band. Entered the Lake at 11 o'clock and encamped on pretty gravelly point which may be considered half its length. High snow covered hills on both sides.

Tuesday 7

At four o'clock proceeded on our journey and we arrived at the upper end of the Lake at 11 o'clock including one hours detention for breakfast. Encamped at the entrance of the 2d Lake. Passed a few Indians during the day.

13 hours 1 Lake
8 " Narrows
10½ " 2d Lake

Wednesday 8th

Encamped at Chutes au Baril.

Thursday 9

A few miles above the Lower Dalles. The Grand Bature is a few points below the Dalles.

Friday 10th

Left our encampment at our usual hour half past four and proceeded onwards very slowly owing to a succession of strong points and rapids. where the pole or the line were constantly required.

In the afternoon we overtook a canoe wherein were five Indians

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with a Canadian. Engagé named Brissette and Family, who had ^{been?} sent off by Mr. Heron from Ft Colville, previous to my arrival there. This mans intention is to cross the mountains and it seems that Mr.Heron has pledged himself, that he should be permitted to do so by the present opportunity. On His mentioning that the Indians are unwilling to proceed Mr.He proposed that himself and family should be embarked in one of the Boats, now it being Dr. McLoughlins express orders that no woman should have a passage in these Boats, I felt the impropriety of complying with this proposal, but not being fully authorised to act, and Mr.H. being my senior and superior in rank out of delicacy to hém I assented and the man and family were accordingly permitted to embark.

Called on Mr.Heron this evening, and mentioned to him Dr.McL orders against the embarkation of families in the Express Boats, and at the same time explained the motives which induced me to comply with his wishes and I requested him to state explicitly whether in the event of my being called to account for the disregard of orders, he was willing to bear the whole responsibility. He replied that in every case he would stand between me and the consequences.

Saturday 11

Clear cold night. Reached the Dalles des Monts^T at 8 o'clock and at 7 P.M. encamped at St. Martins Rapid.

Sunday 12

Encamped 10 miles below the Boat Encampment.

Monday 13

1st Point woods.

Tuesday 14

Entrance of 2d Point of woods. Weather mild and the snow melting fast. The sandy flats are generally covered with snow ^{to} the depth of 20 ^{inches} or 2 feet. It is very remarkable that from the head of upper Lake nearly to

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the Boat Encampment there was continued depth of 36 to 40 Inches of snow every where along the River, and contrary to all former experience the nearer we approached the Mountains the quantity of snow evidently diminished.

Wednesday 15th

The weather still continues mild and unfavourable which compels us to use the snow shoe constantly. Encamped at the commencement of the Bag Hill.

Thursday 16th.

Snowed frequently during the day. Encamped on the height of Land.

Friday 17th.

Encamped at the Grand Bature where we laid aside our snow shoes, and had the satisfaction of treading once more on Terra Firma.

Saturday 18th.

The horses from Klynes reached us this morning at 9 o'clock and we continued our journey with them to the Lower Moose Encampment where we put up for the night.

Sunday 19 April.

Encamped at Larocques House.

Monday 20

Reached Klynes.

Tuesday 21.

Left Klynes House this morning at 8 o'clock with one canoe four passengers and 8 men, the other men remain here to mend and prepare the two other canoes, for descending the River. They will follow us as soon as they are ready for the journey which will be, I suppose tomorrow, the River is very low, and they will be much lumbered with families, and baggage, two causes from which much delay may be naturally expected on their way down. had the case been otherwise I should scarcely have decided on separating the Party. but my aim is to reach Edmoⁿ about the 26 current, which cannot

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be accomplished unless the utmost diligence is used.

Wednesday 22.

A very stormy day with snow and rain in abundance. Passed Rapide des Morts at 12 o'clock and after proceeding 3 hours more we were compelled to land, the River being entirely filled with ice.

After landing I proceeded downwards a few miles on foot to examine the state of the River, in some places the ice does not appear to have moved at all in others the middle of the channel is open. It being impossible to move at present we pass the night here to await the event of tomorrow.

Thursday 23.

Left our encampment of last night but before we had advanced a mile from the place found an accumulation of ice which renders the river ^{impassable?} impossible at present, at this place we landed and remained stationary for a considerable time to see if the ice would give way.

During this state of suspense I walked a short distance down the river and found the ice firm at two places but beyond these clear water, this circumstance determined me to attempt a passage, accordingly the canoe and property were carried over the first bridge of ice, and launched into the water, we shortly afterwards encountered a second obstruction then a third which were passed in a similar manner to the first after proceeding a few miles further we overtook a large body of floating ice near which we encamped. We are now near 15 Miles from Baptiste River. Distance today 6 Miles.

Friday 24th

Left our encampment and advanced about 4 miles when we were again obliged to stop as the river is entirely blocked up. The two last canoes rejoined us.

Saturday 25

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Saturday 25

Our progress during this day does not exceed 5 miles, and for a considerable distance below our encampment the ice is still so solid and compact as to remove all probability of its giving way immediately ; a circumstance which determines me to push on ahead leaving the bulk of the Party to come on leisurely with the property. My plan is to proceed with a canoe perfectly light and ten men, in places where the ice has already disappeared we will use the canoe, and we will either drag or carry our property over the ice wherever we may meet with it.

Sunday 26

A clear frosty night, At half past four we were on the move, and after gliding smoothly over a few miles of open water, we reached a large field of ice, over which all the property was carried, a second soon after appeared and was passed in the same manner. Soon after we reached Baptistes River which is exceedingly high and rushes with such impetuous force into the Athabasca River as nearly divides it in two. To our great joy we encountered no more ice during the day but from the great quantities still adhering [to] the banks on both sides, it is evident that it has been very recently carried off. Met a canoe from Assiniboini, which left that place 5 days ago, the men inform us that they were stopped the whole of the 24th and 25 by the ice floating downwards in such quantities as to cover the entire body of the River. Encamped about 40 miles above the fort.

Monday 27

Reached Assiniboini at 8 o'clock. and at half past one commenced the Portage on horseback. Slept at the two Rivers. In descending the Athabasca River I could make but few observations on the quality of the soil, but should suppose it to be of very indifferent quality from the kind of wood which it produced. From Klynnes to McLeods Branch the Banks of the River are thickly covered with the White spruce, and Canadian Balsam, with a

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few Birch, below the latter place a good many aspen and poplar trees.

Tuesday 28

Encamped at Eagle Lake. The Country through which we have passed is pretty generally covered with timber there are certainly a few clear spots called Prairies, but they are of small extent and scarcely merit any notice There are no Lakes of any extent, save the one now near us, and the Paddle and are the only two Rivers deserving of the name at the latter we [were] compelled to construct a Raft as we could not otherwise cross the property without without without wetting.

Wednesday 29

Encamped four miles before reaching Sturgeon River, on the Banks of a small river, which runs thro' a narrow valley bordered with willows, and the banks thickly covered with grass which is a most eligible situation for our encampment, as we are completely shut out from observation, and run little risk of being discovered by any roving parties of Horse Thieves. From Eagle Lake to Berlands Lake the Country is in general densely wooded with the White Spruce, Poplar and Birch, but from that place to Sturgeon River, it is totally different in its character, instead of the gloomy interminable forest, we here meet with the extensive prairie variegated by pleasant groves of trees, and watered by numerous tiny Lakes, and small streams of water. The surface of these Prairies is thickly covered with various grasses, indicating a rich productive soil.

Thursday 30th April.

Reached Edmonton at 8 o'clock A.M.

Saturday 2d.

Left Edmonton at 8 o'clock A.M. Encamped at Carp River.

Sunday 3d.

Encamped a few miles below the crooked Fall or Rapide Croche. The River is so very low that our progress is continually interrupted by the numerous

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banks of gravel and scattered rocks which are concealed from view by a small depth of untransparent fluid. The Boats are incessantly taking ground on the one or striking heavily upon the others, and the crews on these occasions have no other way of clearing these obstacles but leaping out and dragging them into deeper water, which is certainly not an agreeable pastime on a cold morning with ice forming all around them. We are surrounded on all sides by a fine country possessing all the natural beauties which can be well imagined in a wild uncultivated region. The Banks of the River are lined with a narrow stripe of trees beyond which commences the extensive prairie embellished & diversified with waving groves of trees and refreshing streams of water. These Prairies are the favourite resort of the Moose and Red Deer and they are also visited by numerous herds of Buffaloes, and there cannot be a more cheerful or pleasing sight than to see the whole country teeming with life and forcibly reminding the Spectator of the flocks and herds of more favoured lands where the mild virtues of religion and civilization have refined and improved the human mind.

The Natives who inhabit the country are

the Blackfoot	Piegan	Blood
300 Tents	500 Tents	400 Tents
Indians	Gros Ventres or Fall Indians	
	250 Tents	
Circus	and Crees	
100 Tents		

The three first named tribes speak the same language and may be regarded as different families having one common origin, the 4 last are distinct from the first and from each other both in language and appearance and in the general features of character. The Piegans, Blackfeet and Fall Indians are friendly and well disposed but the Blood Indians are a fierce and violent people detested by all their neighbours. These tribes dispose of their dead in a manner which evinces none of the intense grief or the fine and tender feelings which is found among other nations.

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Excepting in rare cases wherein a powerful chief or a near and dear relative is concerned, the dead are simply wrapped in Buffalo robe and cast into the woods where they are quickly devoured by the wild animals which are always numerous about the camps.

They have some idea of a future state, and imagine that their Spirits are received into the (Butes de Table, a place on the Bow River) where they enjoy uninterrupted felicity entirely of a spiritual nature.

Monday 4th May.

Encamped a short distance from Moose River.

Tuesday 5

Fort Pitt. The weather exceedingly cold and unpleasant we arrived here just in time to escape a heavy storm of hail and snow, which continued to pour down upon us for nearly a full hour. There are 40 Tents of Crees Indians encamped around the Fort apparently with the view of being protected against any sudden attack of their enemies. A month or two ago a War Party consisting of 300 Strong wood and Beaver Hill Crees made a hostile incursion into the Blackfoot Country and accidentally fell in with an straggling party of 20 Circus Warriors who on perceiving the enemy threw themselves into a thicket of trees, and after hastily constructing a temporary barricade boldly opened a spirited fire on the Crees who not relishing the idea of a rapid advance on their determined enemy contented themselves with maintaining a weak & desultory fire during the day. In the night the Circus who were not very strictly guarded escaped from their fortification leaving 11 of their number on the field of battle of Crees 3 killed and 10 wounded. The Circus who escaped reached their main camp and a strong party of their friends gave pursuit to the Crees who took up a strong position in the woods where they could not be attacked but at a manifest disadvantage and the two parties finally separated without any further attempt on either side. The whole Cree tribe are now living in continual alarms and are just on the wing for a flight

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to the strong woods where they may live in perfect security.

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A cold frosty morning. Continued our journey this morning at 7 o'clock.
Encamped a little above Manchester House.

Thursday 7.

Cold weather. Encamped a little above Battle River.

Friday 8

Above Lower Eagle Creek.

Saturday 9

Carlton.

Sunday 10

Remained at Carlton

Monday 11th.

Left Carlton at 8 o'clock this morning with 6 men, 3 Indians, and 7 officers forming in all a party of 16 with 2 boys on their way to Red River School. Our course from Carlton was about east by North, during the whole of this days journey. The Country is of a diversified character being in some places open and level in others covered with small aspen trees and the whole is intersected by numerous small Lakes. 18 miles from the Fort we crossed the South Branch of the Sascatchiwan commonly called Bow River. It takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains & runs parallel with the main River in sight of Moutons(?) Hill.

Tuesday 12th

Our march today was continued at the rate as yesterday. Encamped on the Banks of a small brakish Lake. 28 miles. Dry weather. Alternate Plain wood and Lakes.

Wednesday 13

Raining all day. Encamped at a small Lake in part covered with wood, and in others clear.

Thursday 14

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Thursday 14.

Encamped at a small pond of water in the midst of an extensive prairie. Country same as yesterday crossed numerous Buffaloe Paths.

Friday 15

Passed a Large Lake of Brakish water. Encamped at a small River. Low level Country.

Saturday 16th.

Encamped at a small River. Low level, alternate wood and plain.

Sunday 17.

Rained heavily during the latter part of the day. Encamped on a bare Hill overlooking a small Lake. In the morning extensive prairies, the afternoon continued woods, swamps and ponds of water.

Monday 18th

Arrived at Fort Pelly in the afternoon. Our route lay through a most delightful country during the greater portion of the day.

Leaving Carlton the country is level, generally open, and here and there covered with Poplars and Willow copses and small Lakes of Brakish water, and this discription may apply almost to the whole of the country through which we have already passed.

Thursday 21st May

Left Fort Pelly after a stay of two days to refresh the horses. Encamped at 2d Muddy Creek.

Friday 22d

Encamped 4 hours march from Shell River. Our progress is very slow owing to the reduced state of the horses. Raining both today and yesterday. Country partially wooded with poplar mixed with a few oak and maple trees.

Saturday 23d.

Raining. Reached Shell River at ten o'clock, from the swollen state of the River obliged to construct a raft by means of which we crossed over.

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Encamped 12 miles beyond. Beautiful country today, hills gracefully sloping into extensive valleys, groves of wood and streams of water with a thousand other indescribable beauties all tending to embellish the scene.

Sunday 24

Fine weather. Passed 20 miles inward of Beaver Creek where there is a trading Post. Passed the Eagle tail River in the afternoon. Encamped at a small Lake. Fine Country.

Monday 25

Fine weather and very warm. Passed the N.E. end of Shoal Lake at 3 o'clock P.M. Encamped at a small Lake. Open country, tufts of willows, undulating.

Tuesday 26

A little rain. Country as yesterday. At 10 o'clock crossed the Saskatchewan(?) or Rapid River. Encamped at a small river.

Wednesday 27

Raining. Encamped at the White Mud River, Hill and valley.

Thursday 28

Passed the White Mud River twice before breakfast, the Banks of this River covered with Oak Maple Ash and poplar. Our afternoons journey through an open country, sand so perfectly level that on the border of the horizon the sky and the verdant plain seem to blend and unite into one. Encamped at River Champignon.

Friday 29

Open level country. Encamped at Mr Belcour.

Saturday 30

Encamped at Fort Garry.

Wednesday 10th June.

Today at 4 o'clock in the afternoon left the stone fort after a stay of 10 days in the Colony. There appears to be a natural division of this settle

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settlement into five separate districts namely, following the order we observe in ascending the river, the Lower District composed entirely of native Indians, the second of Orkney men, the third Scotchmen the fourth above the forks Canadians and the fifth at the white horse plain half Breads.

Wednesday 17th June.

Reached Norway House in the afternoon.

Friday 19

Left Norway Hs at one o'clock in 6 hours reached Black water river, in two hours more passed Black Water and Hairy Lake encamped at the Etchinamies(?)

Saturday 20

Left encampment at half past two. 8½ hours Painted Stone 4 hours to White Falls, 3 hours Hill Portage encamped.

Sunday 21st

Windy Lake, Wepempanis River, Oxford Lake, encamped.

Wednesday 24

Reached the Factory.

July Thursday 16th.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of this day took our departure from York Factory on our return to the Columbia. We are two Boats in Company, and we expect to overtake within the course of a day or two 7 more Boats which left this yesterday. In these Boats the Columbia Party consisting of 21 Labourers and 3 Passengers are embarked, and will assist in transporting the property required for the trade of that District as far as Edmonton when we leave them to their own resources. At Norway House we will be joined by two additional gentlemen and one more in the Saskatchewan forming in all 27 persons besides two families.

The Boats are manned with crews of 7 and a few of 8 men, but many of them are suffering from the effects of severe colds contracted at York

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or in the journey downward which in several cases has rendered the sufferer unfit for duty, and in many instances particularly with the Natives terminated by inflammatory diseases of the lungs generally proving fatal. A cold North east wind blowing off the ice in the Bay accompanied with rain. Encamped 12 miles distant from the Fort.

Friday 17.

Blowing a strong breeze from the same quarter as yesterday which enabled us to use the sail during the whole day. Overtook the seven Boats mentioned yesterday as having preceded us. Cold hazy weather with rain. Encamped at the lower end of Steel River.

Saturday 18th.

Clear pleasant weather. Made use of the sail during the early part of the day, but the wind failing us we were forced to have recourse to the tracking line during the afternoon. Encamped 6 miles in Hill River.

Sunday 19.

Made use of tracking line the whole day.

Monday 20.

Proceeded on with the tracking line until 11 o'clock when we reached the Rock carrying place, which occupied two full hours. Borwicks Falls 2 hours more, the White Mud Portage 2 hours more a little above which we encamped for the night.

Tuesday 21.

Leaving our encampment we carried part of our cargo at the point of Rocks, remained 5 hours at Brassey where the whole cargo was carried, encamped at the lower Burntwood where the whole cargo is also carried.

Wednesday 22d & Thursday 23d.

Passed South side landing Place and Morgans rocks without discharging a Package. At the Little Rocky Launcher & Little Burntwood car-

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ried Boat and cargo at Smooth Rocky encamped Mossy and 2d Carrying place carried nearly the whole cargoes.

Friday 24th.

Passed Birds Creek early in the morning. Upper Carrying Place and encamped in Birds Lake.

Saturday 25th.

Crossed Logans Lake and entered Jack River, at the upper end of the 1 Portage encamped.

Sunday 26.

Passed the 2d and 3d Portage Hill River, and encamped in Knee Lake. The country from the Factory to this place is thickly wooded, with the spruce, the Larch, the Scotch fir, patches of poplars, and dwarf Birch, with Willows in the vicinity of Waters. Generally speaking the surface of the soil is covered with a thick coating of lichen amongst which the Labrador tea plant grows with great luxuriancy. The only other plants I observed are the french willow (Herbes Freid ?) and Cranberry and two other plants with whose names and properties I am not acquainted. In some few places a kind of long wiry grass is found, but as I have already mentioned this is peculiarly the country of the lichen. The banks particularly of Hill River rise to a considerable elevation, in other places they are low, and possess very uninteresting appearance. The soil which lies immediately under the lichen in places consists of a redish clay in others a vegetable decomposition with a slight mixture of Clay. Large masses of white Granite are observed all along the River, and with the exception of some Islands in Knee (?) Lake where the Rock is of a very dark red colour, Granite is the only mineral observable as far as Norway House. Amongst the productions of this part of the Country I omitted to enumerate the Alder tree & the Red & Black currant bush.

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Monday 27.

Passed Knee Lake under sail, the Trout falls and encamped at the Upper Knife Handling Place. Cold, cloudy weather. Wind North.

Tuesday 28th.

Reached Oxford at 2 o'clock. Encamped at the Upper end of the Lake.

Wednesday 29th.

Encamped at Hells Gates.

Thursday 30 July.

Robertsons Portage.

Friday 31.

Barrier.

Saturday 1 August.

Head of Sea(?) River.

Sunday 2d.

Reached Norway House.

Monday 3d.

Left Norway House encamped in Play Green Lake.

Tuesday 4.

Reached the old Fort, beyond which we could not proceed on account of a boisterous wind, which renders any further progress, in the present state of the Lake, extremely dangerous. Mossy Point which is about six miles distant, rises abruptly from the Waters edge and during stormy weather the heavy swell breaks angrily against its steep ascent, and renders it at such times quite inaccessible; the coast for 27 miles beyond Mossy Point partakes of the same inaccessible character, it forms but one continued unbroken line of abrupt ascent, undistinguished either by Bays or rivers wherein a secure harbour might be found in case of boisterous weather;

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whence it becomes a matter of necessity never to attempt this part of the Lake particularly with loaded craft except when in a calm and tranquil state.

Wednesday 5th Aug.

The wind abated for a short time this morning but freshened again immediately afterwards, which rendered a move impracticable.

Thursday 6th.

Fine weather. The wind having abated considerably we recommenced our journey, and proceeded on quietly throughout the day, with the help of sail and oar reached the Little Island where we encamped.

Friday 7th.

A favourable change of wind this morning induced us to make an early start, we had not proceeded far when it fell calm, in a short time it commenced blowing from another quarter not quite so favourable to our progress, the breeze (sic) having gradually freshened, the waves swelled up to a very menacing size, and rushed forward with impetuous force towards the rock bound shore, threatening destruction to every object which they encountered. Forced to run for a very commodious harbour where we passed the day.

Saturday 8th Aug. 1835.

Left our harbour of yesterday with a favourable wind which carried us very swiftly forward in the direction of the River. Reached the foot of the Grand Rapid at 12 o'clock. Encamped with all the cargoes vended at the lower end of Carrying place. This morning fell in with Dr. King the fellow traveller of Captain Back, returning from the expedition undertaken for the purpose of succouring Captain Ross. He informed us that the result of the expedition had not been very satisfactory either in a geographical or scientific point of view. Leaving Fort Reliance with the commencement of spring,

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they proceeded in a North easterly direction through the Chusadawd Lake of Hearne and a chain of small Lakes, where they constructed a Boat for their descent to the coast. On arrival at the Great Fish River their descent was very rapid, this river is very broad and deep. Falls and rapids of a dangerous character were found in every part of it. In its course it intersects one or two Lakes and discharges in the ocean 70 miles West from Chesterfields Inlet. After exploring a short distance of Coast, and experienced much detention from floating ice they commenced their return to Fort Reliance where they remained during last winter with abundance of provisions.

Saturday 8th Aug. 1835.

Dr King states that the Great Fish River abounds with Fish, and Geese, the Banks of the River were covered with Rein Deer, and numerous herds of the Musk Ox, an animal generally found in low valleys watered by a rivulet where they can indulge their propensity for mud and filth.

Captain Back has called in question the correctness of Ross' survey he is of opinion that the neck of Land which this navigator has named Boothia (?) is the Island of North Somerset. King differs again from Back and supports his opinion by very plausible reasoning. The result of so many conflicting opinions, tending rather to subvert each other than to illustrate the proposed objects is not calculated to satisfy the public.

No wood from the Northern Lakes to the coast.

Sunday 9th.

Occupied in the Portage.

Monday 10th.

Left the Grand rapid at 10 o'clock and encamped at the Grand Discharge. The limestone Banks still are seen covered with a white clay soil.

Tuesday 11.

Encamped at the Upper end of Cedar Lake.

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Wednesday 12th

Encamped a few miles above Leaf Island

Thursday 13th

Encamped in a little channel of the Pas. Showery

Friday 14th

Encamped a considerable distance above Grand Remou Ditto

Saturday 15

Encamped at the upper end of the Barrier Ditto

Sunday 16

Reached Cumberland at 2 o'clock P.M. where we passed the day waiting for the boats still behind. For the last three days the weather has been very unsettled, thunder storms, drizzling rains and sunshine have succeeded each other in rapid succession, one part of the sky being covered with a dense cloud, while in other parts the blue azure of the heavens was rendered more striking and beautiful by the contrast. From Cedar Lake to this place the country is low, full of small lakes, and arms of the main river, and during the spring floods must be, from its trifling elevation, entirely or in a great measure, inundated. The driest and most elevated portions of these low grounds are covered with willows, and the moist parts with reeds, long grass or rushes. One or two high points in the river are covered with pines and some others with poplars, and in these places the soil is black and the Lime stone very abundant. The country through which the Sasatchewan runs from this to Cedar Lake is low, alluvial land to a great distance on either side, and this low country has been formed into lakes, and numerous smaller branches having communication at both extremities with the main stream, by the spring floods bursting over the natural boundary of the river, and inundating at times, the whole extent of this low country; which remains in this state until in part drained off by the main river.

Monday 17 August 1834

Early this morning left Cumberland, the entire party of nine boats being in company. Proceeded through the narrow channel leading from Cumberland Lake to the main river, which is still very high, and is in consequence full from bank to bank. The water is so thick and muddy as to be scarcely fit for use. As we ascend, the banks are more elevated than in the lower parts, and are covered with the aspen, poplar and willows. I observed a red currant bush today. The oar was in constant use the whole day. Showers of rain.

Tuesday 18th

Continued our journey early this morning, and received during the day some trifling assistance from the sail. Country of the same description as yesterday. Encamped a few miles above Sturgeon River.

Wednesday 19th

A gantle breeze induced our crews to extend the boat sails, but it proved of short duration, and afforded little relief to the harassed men. At ten o'clock the tracking lines were put in requisition and were not withdrawn excepting for a very short distance, until we had ascended Thoburn's rapid, when the oars were once more set in motion until our encampment a few miles farther on. On the opposite side of the river some Crees were encamped, who brought a little venison, which they bartered for rum. From Cumberland to the place where we commenced tracking today, I did not observe a single stone; there however, and along the rapid the beach is in most places covered with stones of different kinds. I noticed one or two limestones, blue and grey granite but the others are unknown to me. In a walk through the woods found the common strong scented black currant, and another kind of black currant, with gooseberry leaf, wood covered with soft weak prickles, berry well flavoured and furred, colour jet black. Banks covered with the willow, aspen, poplar, birch, and occasionally a few spruce.

Thursday 20th August

Pretty severe frost during the night; ice formed on the oars. Fine clear weather, with oppressive heat during the day. Proceeded today at times with the oar, at others with the tracking lines. The country improves in appearance as we ascend, the banks being of greater elevation and are covered with tall and graceful poplars, intermixed with birch, and the dark green foliage of the pine; passed a number of islands, some of them rather extensive, formed by diverging branches of the river. Reached Pemurn Point in the afternoon. Encamped a few miles above Rowands Portage.

Friday 21st August

Rather cold this morning. Left our camp about our usual hour, half past three. At five o'clock reached the tracking ground, and travelled with the line out all day.

Saturday 22nd

Slight rain during the night, and showers with intervals of sunshine all day. In the evening very heavy rain. Broke one of our boats at Fort du Tremble, and were detained one hour and a half in repairing it. Encamped 8 miles below Fort La Covice. Country densely wooded.

Sunday 23rd.

Constant rain the whole night and during the early part of the day; it ceased in the afternoon, and before sunset the sky was clear and unclouded. Passed Fort La Covice at 8 o'clock and four hours after Batochis Fort and encamped for the night 3 miles below Fort Maranquin.

Monday 24th

Passed the Bow River Forks early this morning where a small party of Carlton Crees, who have fled from the storm of war, are resident. It appears from their information that a war party of Blackfeet or Slave Indians have lately visited Carlton with the view of retaliating their spring disasters on the hostile Crees. Having encountered none of their actual and natural enemies,

Monday 24th August(continued)

to allay their savage rage and to quench their eager thirst of vengeance, they directed a portion of their ill will against the Traders and by way of compensation for other disappointments, carried off Mr. Pruden's saddle horses after possessing themselves of the clothes and property of their guardians. No other violence seems to have been committed. Met with an hours detention in consequence of an accident happening to one of the boats in Colis Rapids. Encamped at a place called the Women's camp.

Tuesday 25

Departed at the dawn of day from our encampment and after a few hours travelling ascended the Crooked Rapid without accident. The sky was rather overcast and threatening, but no rain fell. Proceeded with the oar almost all day. Country on both sides of the river of some elevation, wooded with intervals of prairie land.

Wednesday 26th

Rained during the night and nearly the whole of the day. Found a camp of Crees at Sturgeon River from whom a quantity of provisions was traded. Encamped nearly 10 miles below the yellow Banks.

Thursday 27th

Rained during a great part of the night. At the dawn of day we continued our journey, tho' the weather is by no means favourable for the preservation of the property as the rain still continues. After a few hours rowing a gentle breeze from the north east aided the exertions of the crew very considerably in propelling the boats against the powerful current, and as it gradually increased the oar was entirely laid aside, our advance being too rapid to admit of their being used to advantage. Arrived at Carlton at 3 o'clock P.M. The gardens at this place have a very unpromising appearance, the potato crops are entirely destroyed by the severe frosts, the wheat is still green and the ears not filled; the Barley, being a more hardy grain has suffered less and has a finer appearance 150 tents of Crees are in the vicinity.

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Saturday 29 August

The rest of the boats which we had left behind arrived late this evening. A party of Crees also arrived from a war excursion which they had entered into in conjunction with their allies the Stone Indians. They have been but too successful in executing their barbarous projects, having surprised, and by their accounts, nearly destroyed a camp of 200 Fall Indians. The leader of the Party is the man who holds the knife.

Tuesday 1st September

Having concluded the various arrangements connected with Carlton, last evening, we recommenced our journey at 6 o'clock this morning. The sky overcast and threatening rain, but these vapours were quickly dispersed by a brisk northerly breeze, which was of great assistance to us during the whole day. Encamped 6 miles above Ash Island. The country on both sides is very beautiful and picturesque, rising from the river by a sloping undulating ascent to the highest level visible from the river. On this level the eye of the spectator ranges through the vast expanse of prairie, variegated and adorned by innumerable groves of trees, smooth green hills and streams of water, forming altogether one of the finest prospects imaginable.

Wednesday 2nd

Raining all day. Met with a party of Stone Indians who provided us with a quantity of fresh Buffalo meat. Encamped 12 miles below Lower Eagle Creek.

Thursday 3rd

Fine weather, but cold for the season. Encamped Passed Lower Eagle River at 10 o'clock. Beautiful country.

Friday 4th

Rather severe frost last night. Many of the people who slept with wet garments or bedcloths found them this morning stiff as boards. The oar is now principally in use, the water being too high to admit of any advantage being derived from the line. Sky overcast and frequent showers of rain. Several herds of Buffalo were seen by the hunters, but none slaughtered.

Saturday 5th September

A very dense fog occasioned considerable difficulty to the boats, being in continual danger of becoming entangled amidst the numerous flats which obstruct and render the ascent very tedious and circuitous. Beautiful clear day and very warm. Mr. McLeod, a gentleman who accompanies us to the Columbia joined us today at 10 o'clock nearly opposite Battle River. It was near this spot that Mr. Cole (after whom the rapids in the lower part of the River are named) was shot by a Cree Indian in a transport of jealous rage on account of the seduction of his wife. Encamped 5 miles below Pike River.

Sunday 6th

Clear warm weather. Encamped 7 miles below Basfond Desnoyer. Early today a poor Red Deer which was hotly pursued by a pack of fierce wolves was observed rushing at full speed down the hills on the opposite side directly towards the river. This circumstance having engaged our attention the foremost boats stopped to await the issue of the pursuit. On gaining the water the Deer dashed into the stream with reckless haste, having distanced all its pursuers. The boats lying close ashore were not perceived by the poor animal until within 50 yards, when a badly aimed shot gave intimation of its danger. Gun after gun was discharged without effect. The Deer recrossed the river and was seen coursing through the prairie apparently uninjured; having escaped with equal good fortune both from wolves and hunters.

Monday 7th September

Fine clear weather and strong westerly breeze which considerably retarded our progress. Landed on the upper or south western extremity of Basfond Desnoyer, at half past nine and were detained there waiting the arrival of a boat which had fallen far behind until midday. Passed Manchester House or Fort Brule's, so called from the manner in which it was destroyed by the Fall Indians, at 5 o'clock, and we encamped near 9 miles above it.

Tuesday 8th

R

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Tuesday 8th

Raining at intervals during the day. Had a few hours of sail wind which was of some trifling assistance to us. Encamped at the upper end of Montagne La Biche.

Wednesday 9th

Arrived at Fort Pitt about midday. Dry weather, but the sky overcast.

Thursday 10th September 1835

Left Fort Pitt this morning at nine o'clock, with only one boat pretty strongly manned and with less loading than the others, in order to proceed on head of the brigade to Edmonton, from whence it is necessary to dispatch a few men to Fort Assiniboine to prepare the canoes and make other arrangements previous to the arrival of the main party. Rained heavily last night, but dry during the day. Encamped one mile below Vermilion River.

Friday 11th

Early this morning continued our journey; observing a luminous circle or halo around the moon, and the sky wearing a rather threatening aspect, we concluded that a change of weather was not distant; and truly enough, for about 7 o'clock this morning after ascending Frog Rapid, the rain falling rather heavily and continued throughout the day. Passed Loyers(?) Rapid at 2 o'clock P.M. and encamped 2 miles below the old Fort of Dog Mump Creek. A north-east wind was of some assistance during part of the day.

Saturday 12th

It rained slightly during the night, but the sky was this morning clear in many places, giving promise of a finer and more pleasant day than yesterday. Early in the morning passed the old fort. The banks of the river are on both sides covered with wood, but we still have at times a distant view of the lofty smooth hills peering out from beyond the intervening thickets. At half past two reached Fort de Lisle, where the deceased King, who was shot by Lamoth lies interned. Encamped at second reach below the Rapid of Bas fond du Lac dis Aufs.

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Journal to York Factory, 1835. (Transcript)

Sunday 13th September 1835

A cold frosty morning. Left our encampment a few minutes past four when the day was just beginning to dawn. Ascended the rapid and stopped for breakfast at the upper end of Bas fond du Lac des Aups. While at this place a gentle easterly wind, which had been gradually increasing in strength since morning induced the men to elevate the mast, and after concluding our meal the sail was spread to the breeze which carried us forward so rapidly as to render the exertions of the crew unnecessary, a respite from labour which is very acceptable to the poor fellows who are dreadfully fatigued by the long continuance of their toils. Encamped four miles above the Crooked Rapid. Heard the calls, consisting of a loud whistle, of a great number of Red Deer on the hills bordering the River. The Buck Red Deer is at this season in full flesh and his branching antlers are now grown to their full size, and as he stands looking proudly from the lofty, smooth hills, amongst which at this season he delights to ramble, appears the most superb animal of the deer kind.

Monday 14th

The easterly wind still continues, and we are not dilatory in availing ourselves of its assistance. Passed the White Mud River at 12 o'clock and at 4 o'clock the rapid called Sac de Vivres(?), and encamped at half past seven.

Tuesday 15th

Quitted our encampment at 4 o'clock this morning; at 9 passed the River des quatre Poteaux; at 1 o'clock Carp River, and encamped one mile above the Three Islands, where the Vermilion River falls into the Saskatchewan. Rained during the early part of the day, and our progress was somewhat retarded by a powerful westerly wind which blew fiercely until the evening.

Wednesday 16th

At half past three the men were on the alert and before the dawn we were on the route. At 10 reached Sturgeon River; an hour and a half more brought us to old Fort Augustus. Encamped a few miles above Point La Pino.

Thursday 17th

Arrived at Edmonton about half past two PM.

Monday 21st

Left Edmonton this morning at 8 o'clock with our party for the Columbia, consisting altogether of 24 servants, 6 gentlemen, besides two families with their attendants. Our property is now conveyed by horses, and will be thus forwarded as far as Assiniboine, from whence we once more betake ourselves to the water. We have in all 51 horses, of which number 39 carry burthens, and 11 are for the passengers. Encamped opposite the Little Scaffold.

Tuesday 22nd

Stopped 2½ hours at Bridge River to refresh the horse^s and encamped at Mr. Shaw's encampment.

Wednesday 23

Breakfast Eagle Lake. Camp on West side Pembina River.

Thursday 24

Iolie Prairie, Two Rivers

Friday 25

Grande Cote, Fort Assinboine

Saturday 26th

On arrival here yesterday afternoon we found the men who had preceeded us from Edmonton busily occupied in repairing and strengthening the canoes, a work which was nearly completed this morning. Two of the canoes are old and two of them were made at Slave Lake about the commencement of the present summer; tho' they were made at different times, and by different persons, they bear a close resemblance to each other in many respects, but chiefly in being made of the most wretched materials, and the new ones of the very worst possible construction, being very narrow, deep and consequently of a great draft of water. Three built here last summer of 24 & 22 ft keel and 8 & 7½ ft middle thaft, being light and well proportioned, offer strong inducements to abandon the canoes and adopt the boats as the safest mode of conveyance up the river.

Saturday 26th (continued)

Advantages of

Canoes Lightness of fabric; swiftness.

Boats Strength, durability, insusceptibility of injury.

Disadvantages of

Canoes Susceptibility of injury

Boats Weight, difficulty of propelling against a powerful current.

A trail was made this morning to ascertain the speed of the two crafts, which did not terminate ~~an~~ unfavourably to the boat as I anticipated, and I am now of the opinion that with the same cargo a boat will reach the mountain nearly as expeditiously as a canoe. The one is certainly more easily propelled than the other, but the canoe frequently stands in need of repairs, and much time is unavoidably lost in that way; whereas the boat moves on rather slowly it is true, but without detention of any kind. At 3 o'clock left Fort Assiniboine with 3 of the boats, 9 men in each and encamped at the lower end of the Grand Basfond. Experienced no unusual difficulty in ascending even the strongest points. Fine clear weather.

Sunday 27th

Proceeded on our journey at the dawn of day, at 8 o'clock passed Campass Point, and afterward Sled Point at 12, and encamped 5 miles above the lower end of Big Island. Fine weather.

Monday 28

No accident occurred during the day. Boats rather weighty in the strong points, a very harassing day's work for the men. Encamped nine miles above the Great Bend. Fine warm weather; a violent southerly wind in the evening.

Tuesday 29

A very boisterous wind which sounded loud and shrill amongst the rigid boughs of the now leafless trees caused us some degree of alarm during the night, as large portions of the forests are frequently overturned by violent storms of wind. Our

Tuesday 29 (continued)

Our progress was not so great as yesterday, owing to the increased rapidity of the stream. Encamped miles above McLeods forks.

Wednesday 30th

A violent westerly wind retarded us considerably this day. Saw a few Assiniboines yesterday and another party today; the former provided us with some fresh meat. Observed several horizontal beds of coals projecting from the perpendicular banks. Encamped a few miles above Hoggs Island at a place which we have named 100 Miles Point, such being the computed distance from Assiniboine.

Thursday 1st October, 1835

A slight frost made the early part of the morning disagreeable both to passengers and to the poor men who are notwithstanding the cold under the necessity of plunging into the water when dragging the boat along by the line. The river in many places is very strong and intervals of smooth water. Distance performed $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Encamped 43 miles below Baptistes River. Saw a Red Deer crossing the river, but at too great a distance to be shot.

Friday 2nd

Rained slightly during the early part of the day, the weather cleared up in the evening and the air became somewhat chilly. Distance 20 miles. Encamped a few miles above Heron's Island, on an island covered with pines.

Saturday 3rd

Fine weather but rather cold, particularly in the morning. At 7 o'clock arrived at cache of leather made by the party of last summer who were prevented, by the sudden and uncommon rise of the water, from conveying it to Mountain. They have left here 18 pieces, forming 6 pieces additional for each of our boats. Our tracking lines are too weak to drag the boats up the strong impetuous currents which we are constantly encountering. Encamped 3 miles below Baptiste River.

Sunday 4th

Frost during the night, but the cold moderate in the morning. Slight rain in the early part of the day. Experienced considerable difficulty in ascending Chalifoux's River. Encamped on the pine Island above Biche Island.

Monday 5th

Very mild morning and very warm during the day. Our progress tediously slow, owing to the number of rapids which we had to ascend. The boats lines are too weak for such places and the consequence is a very great loss of time, as the three lines must be attached to the same boat we can venture to bring them up, singly they snap like cobweb. Encamped on 200 Mile Island.

Tuesday 6th

Slight frost in the morning but the day remarkably fine and pleasant. Our difficulties commenced immediately on leaving the encampment and it was five o'clock in the evening before we reached the comparatively smooth water above Rapide des Moits. In ascending Rapide Platte just as one of the boats was toiling up the steepest part the towing lines broke and two men had rather a narrow escape from drowning. Encamped 4 miles above Old Man's River.

Wednesday 7th

Fine weather. Encamped 6 miles above Maypole Island.

Thursday 8th

Reached Klyns at 6 o'clock.

Saturday 10th

Left the fort and encamped at the Little Rocher, 6 miles from the fort.

Sunday 11th

Fine weather. Encamped at Henry's House. Distance 20 miles, time 5 hrs.

Monday 12th

Weather variable, rain and fair weather by turns. Stopped at Prairie a la Vache, and encamped on the holey river. Distance 18miles.

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Tuesday 13th

Raining in the morning and in the afternoon heavy snow, which rendered this day particularly disagreeable. Drenched to the skin in the early part of the day, we were by no means prepared for the transition which followed to heavy snow; the encampment and a good fire were highly relished by all. Stopped at commencement of Moose encampment, and encamped two miles below Grand Bateau. Distance 22 miles.

Wednesday 14th

Stopped at Gun encampment, and slept before commencing the Big Hill. Time 8 hours. Distance 18 miles. Rain and snow.

Thursday 15th

Stopped at foot of the Hill. Encamped after passing the point of woods. Distance Hill 7, flats 5, woods 5, = 17 miles. Rain and snow.

Friday 16th.

Arrived at the Boat Encampment in the afternoon; found here three men from Colville, who are to assist us down with the boats. These men arrived here on the first and after waiting a few days without seeing us, Canote very properly dispatched 4 of them to Colville, remaining here himself with two others. Fair weather. Distance 19 miles.

17 "
18 "
22 "
18 "
20 "
6 "

120 miles total distance.

Saturday 17th

Rain and snow all day. Left the Boat Encampment this morning at 7 o'clock and proceeded on during the day without accident or detention. Encamped a few miles below Port Eaters point.

Sunday 18th

Weather similar to yesterday. Entered the Lake at 4 o'clock. Saw 3 Indians.

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Monday 19th

Encamped at Pine Point, commencement of 1st Lake. Clear weather.

Tuesday 20

Clear weather. Encamped a few miles above McGillivray's River.

Wednesday 21

Arrived at Colville this day at 2 o'clock PM.

Thursday 22

Embarked 46 bags provisions at this Post for the lower Posts. Left the Portage at 5 o'clock. Encamped at Grande Rapids.

Friday 23rd

Encamped a few miles above the Stoney Island Rapid. Cold with

Saturday 24th

Okanagan at 7 o'clock.

Sunday 25

4 miles above Stoney Island Rapid.

Monday 26

6 miles below Priests rapid.

Tuesday 27

Nez Percés

Wednesday 28th

Douglas, Sir James

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November

Entered the Cawelitz river in the evening of yesterday and encamped three miles above its junction with the Columbia. The water so far deep, and the banks low and covered with Alder, Poplar and bushes growing in alluvial situations. Three miles above this encamped found a shoal with little more than 3 or 4 feet water upon it, as we advance, the banks more elevated and every every alternate point covered with pine, overgrown, with underwood. The River in places when not broken up by islands varies from 100 to 130 yards wide, never works and the windings are from N. to W. general course about N.W. Find shoals and still water by intervals. 9 hours from the Columbia brought us to the fishery, the 10 hour to the Forks, 25 miles perhaps, coming in from N.E. where we encamped. Many of the points, particularly that at the Fishery, covered with splendid Poplars, the Pine of good size and of the red and white Saper Balard.

Wednesday November 14.

From the before mentioned Fork or tributary in 2 hours reach Coal River; $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours from there to Montain river, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours more brought us to the Lower Portage; total 7 hours.

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