

D I A R Y

of

RFN. J.A. FORIN

NO. 3 COY 20R

1 JAN 1885

to

31 DEC 1885

"GOD IS LOVE"

January 1, 1885 - Thursday

Taking a retrospective glance over the past year I see that it has been to me a more stirring and change-ful year than any in my past life. After completing almost 4 years service as a student with John Bell, J.C., I went to Toronto just at a period when my services to the old firm were not wanted.

January 2, 1885 - Friday

Entered Cameron & McPhillips for one month and then spent 2 mos with Moss & Co and received certain knowledge of Osgoode Hall & Courts which will be useful I hope. The friends in Toronto were kind. Emma was attending Moroyne House, 347 Jarvis St.

January 1885

I have delayed entering notes in my diary until the latter part of this month. It has been a time of affliction "God in his Wisdom" has laid an afflicting hand upon us and taken on the 7th of this month dear bright sister Jennie, apparently so strong and healthy, the last one of us whom we thought would succumb according to the ordinary laws of health, but the night after Xmas the evening of the 26th, she fell from her back steps while emptying a dish. Aunt Agnes, the girls and myself were over for tea and a bright happy time we had. I left a few hours before the accident and in the morning everything appeared favorable, we had no apprehension. Dr. Willson, a professing physician, but one whom I consider as a bombastic ignorant quack was called in and by mal-practice, for I cannot call it by any other name, made what otherwise would have been, as far as we can see, a few weeks sickness, our Jennie's deathbed. He administered strong doses of urgot after all substance had passed off, as mother saw it in the basin, and an ordinary miscarriage was aggravated by non-application of hot applications and large doses of powerful drugs and the stubborn ignorant quack resisted furiously the calling of another Doctor, but which mother insisted in, and a few minutes after Dr. Gibson came in hot applications were applied. She suffered terribly and was reduced in the space of less than 2 weeks from a strong hearty girl to a worn emaciated figure.

I hope this man Willson will stand before the public in his true light yet. God has taken her but the instrument will not be used in bringing other people to the death bed if I can help it.

The careless brute brought the scarlet fever to

the dear motherless little boy who is now tossing himself about in the room above the dining room. After 2 weeks sickness it is going very hard with the poor little fellow altho he is receiving every care. He started by sickness at stomach on the 7th the morning his mother died and that night took convulsions. His good mother would be very much grieved if she were living. But she has gone and the going was beautiful perfect trust in her Savior asking us to sing hymns. Songs of Zion and then her father to pray and Robert Templeton to pray also Rev Mitchell, not a murmur. Amidst her suffering she asked for her boy and her prayer was, "Oh Lord Jesus come quickly". It was a glorious victory over death, no fear, no dread knowing that her Redeemer had interceded. What or where was the world? No where! She had lived a devoted Christian life, so loving, so true, so clever, her laugh and joke will be missed for many years in our midst but then we know that as far as her she has gone "Home" to abide in perfect happiness. She has gained her reward young in life and we will struggle on and know that when we pass away we leave sorrowing friends, but ours will be the gain. May God strengthen the tie that binds and leads us by the hand.

My own prayer is that I may be more consecrated to his work and do more for my fellow sinners while my own soul is replenished more and more with the bread of life. I will think less of the world and with this grace will live closer to Him.

January 14, 1885 - Wednesday

I will remain at home until Johnnie has a change for the better or until we lay him by his mother. He is very poorly, the fever is very high and we are all anxious, his aunts and grandmother have their minds fully occupied and give less thought to the great loss already suffered than otherwise. It seems as if Johnnie goes that Jennie will have more passed away from us than if he lives. We all pray that God may spare him. Many letters are coming in full of Christian sympathy and love. Rev David McLaren preached for us last Sunday a stirring gospel sermon. He came down to attend Jennie's funeral. He seems to be consecrated for his Master's use, and has chosen a good part in serving our Heavenly Father. May he meet with great success is my prayer.

January 17, 1885 - Saturday

Mother is down sick in bed with a slight attack of fever, her throat is very sore. We indeed seem sorely

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tried. I hope that the other girls will not be taken down. I took Peter and Lizzie out in the country last Saturday. They are not strong and more susceptible to this scourge than the rest of us.

January 19, 1885 - Monday

Our patients are improving. That God may bless the means used for their ultimate recovery is our constant prayer.

The weather is blustering and a high wind with snow.

January 20, 1885 - Tuesday

Cold and windy.

Unpleasant weather for sick ones and for us all.

Thinking of going to Toronto again after an absence of six months in which time my experience out on the Canada Pacific railway has been an important and memorable event. Have now about 7 mos to prepare for Barrister and Solicitor exams which come off in August, which if I have health I will get thro all O.K.

(very cold weather)

January 24, 1885 - Saturday

Came to Toronto this morning and spent the day in hunting out a suitable boarding house, at last settled down at 140 Mutual St.

Weather moderate.

Wrote a postal card home, anxious to hear about dear ones.

January 25, 1885 - Sunday

God is loving, just and great.

Attended St James Sq Church that was familiar and many of the faithful words I have heard from the pulpit fell upon my ears for a second time. Took tea and supper at Mr. Scotts 80 Carlton St. Attended St James Sq in evening.

Wrote mother.

January 26, 1885 - Monday

Entered the firm of Blake, Kerr, Lash and Cassels under the immediate control of Mr. Holman, my work will be searching up authorities etc. Will find this useful, I have no doubt, if I apply myself as I should - .

Wrote Alex.

January 27, 1885 - Tuesday

Weather yesterday and today cold and blustering. Busy at the Hall looking up cases in a stop order case. Wrote Tom Dow, Chicago.

January 28, 1885 - Wednesday

Attended the opening of the Legislative Assembly and laughed at the flunkeyism too much for our country. Attended preparatory services in St James Sq Church Prim Caven officiated. It is a joy for me to be among Christians and I thank God for the privilege.

A young man named McKillop is rooming with me. I had an earnest talk with him, poor fellow, he needs God's grace. I will pray for him.

January 29, 1885 - Thursday

My preparations for the profession seems inadequate for its requirements. I have loitered along my way I am afraid, but will have to pursue them more and more and with God's strengthening me I will fill the place allotted to me.

January 30, 1885 - Friday

Many things one perceives apparently inconsonant with religious life in the practical carrying on of our professional duties, but if my spiritual life and professional life clashes, it will be bad for the professional life as to the other I will adhere God helping me.

January 31, 1885 - Saturday

Attended the Hall as usual and spent most of time with musty reports which contain the history of what will now guide us.

Visited the Parliament Buildings.

Look forward to tomorrow with a feeling of privilege.

February 1, 1885 - Sunday

Communion Sabbath -

Unworthy to approach our Heavenly Father, but through the blood, the precious blood of his Son, I felt today as I never felt before. How gracious He is to surround us with the tender mercies and christian friends. The death of dear sister Jennie comes back and what a peaceful sorrow, not of the world, knowing that she is more prized in the circle above where her Father was awaiting her. Oh for strength, I am so weak. The blood, the precious blood of Christ is my only hope. Help me God to live closer to Thee.

Rev Torrence of Peterboro preached. I have been strengthened, but am so unworthy, my sins are many.

February 3, 1885 - Tuesday

The work which I am engaged in of looking up authorities is a beneficial one and at same time very interesting as one goes to the root of a principle as found in our reports. When handling these one often thinks if he will soon handle them for himself - perhaps not -

Attended Y.P.A meeting in St James Sq Church which was well attended. If these meetings tend to satisfy the desire for recreation implanted within us they are doing a good work, for the very associations are good and it is better to be here than at some demoralizing theatre and asking for strength we can satisfy ourselves with this - the transiency of all earthly things was brought so clearly by dear Jennie's death, that my central desire is to realize "that it is not all of life to live nor all of death to die".

Took tea at Dr. McLaren's and spent pleasant evening with David, Mrs. McLaren and Mr. A. Mowat. D. McLaren is very much taken up with the idea of teaching Italians and desires me to take a class. May God help me and guide me to do what is right. The reading of N.M. McCheyne's life, a man of God, is doing me good and I ask God for strength to be more and more alive to my privileges.

February 7, 1885 - Saturday

Attended S.K. Blake's class on the Sunday School Lesson in Shaftsbury Hall. He is a man of power consecrated to God in this work. May I give heed to my

ways, is my prayer.

Attended Osgoode Hall in evening and spoke for first time.

February 8, 1885 - Sunday

When fiery darts of Temptation assail God will be nigh.

With McCheyne I will try and possess the thought "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind he stayed on thee because he trusteth in Thee".

Rev Armstrong of Ottawa preached.

February 9, 1885 - Monday

The Young Men's reform Club here is in a flourishing condition. Attended their meeting this evening which I have done on other occasions. The question of Extension of Franchise came up. Opposed to manhood Suffrage advocated change. Appointed one of a deputation to wait on the Attorney General.

February 10, 1885 - Tuesday

Read a letter from Alex dated 28th, was glad to hear from him, poor fellow, he is so lonely out there, and seems downhearted. The letter is dated at Pt Arthur where he was then intending to come home, but stopped on his way. I have not as yet heard of his return, altho father has wired him. I hope that he was able to reach his Hospital alright. The North shore is a treacherous, cold - inhospitable region and the travelling must be dangerous. I pray God that he may reach home.

February 12, 1885 - Thursday

I am so glad that I have faith, if it were not for a loving God I would be a castaway as despondency would drive me out of society. What seemed brighter than dear Jennie's future, the world cannot do more for me than give the home comforts which she enjoyed but the Love of God grows. I do not like to write about such a sacred theme in my Diary as I often write more I am afraid what I wish than what I am. I pray God to keep me humble and diligent. "Prone to wander Lord I feel it prone to leave the God I love. Take my heart Lord, take and seal it, seal it for the courts above".

February 14, 1885 - Saturday

I attended the Conversazione in the University last evening. It was a large and interesting affair accompanied by L.S. Alex has a treasure here - Heard "Mark Twain" & Cable, in the evening read.

February 15, 1885 - Sunday

The weather has been bitterly cold, but today is warmer. Attended Young Men's Prayer Meeting. Must remember Rom VIII, 26: gal IV 6. No labored expression will satisfy. Rev Barclay of St Paul Montreal in morning - Dr Sexton in Metropolitan in evening. Reading McChesne which makes me sad and am useless when I think of it.

February 25, 1885 - Wednesday

I read telegram from Alex this morning "all well" I thank God for his goodness and know that whatsoever cometh is to a Christian best. A great relief as I was getting very uneasy.

March 1, 1885 - Sunday

Mr. Crombie of St George's Edinburgh preached morning and evening - has an English accent.

March 3, 1885 - Tuesday

Read the sad news this morning of Aggie Wilson's death. It will leave a blank which can never be filled on this side of the grave in the hearts of Aunt Agnes and others. This terrible treacherous scarlet fever which I left there nearly 6 weeks ago still works its hideous form up to light and took this bright pretty little child away. A sweet loving tender clinging plant or tendril that wound itself around poor Aunt Agnes whose lot is a sad one. May God of Peace come.

March 8, 1885 - Sunday

Attended Young Men's Prayer Meeting at 10.15 as I do every Sunday morning, it is a good preparation for work during the day. Rev Archibald of Truro preached on Matt 10.32-3. Attended Knox Church in evening. Mr. Parsons preached on that text "and the door was shut". Hope I have gained wisdom.

March 9, 1885 - Monday

Wrote Alex. Write him every week he needs all

the letters and news that he can get, poor fellow, he must be so lonely. That God may keep and direct him is my prayer.

March 11, 1885 - Wednesday

was delighted and surprised to have father walk into the Hall this morning. Spent the afternoon with him which was cheering and comforting. I hope that the financial cloud will pass away from him soon.

March 12, 1885 - Thursday

Mr. & Mrs Cockshutt left for old country today with Libbie S-.

March 15, 1885 - Sunday

Took dinner with S^r Blake. Miss Biggar of Belleville there. A very nice family and home like - a hospitable home - where God reigns.

March 17, 1885 - Tuesday

Very cold day - ice and snow still on the ground.

St Patrick's Day.

March 18, 1885 - Wednesday

Heavy snow storm tonight.

March 19, 1885 - Thursday

Spiritual darkness.

Praying for strength of Light.

March 26, 1885 - Thursday

read letter from Alex. He is well.

March 26, 1885 - Saturday

Received news this morning that the Queen's Own were called out for active service. Enlisted in Coy H chosen as one of the contingent for North West service against rebels under Niel - paraded at 9 a.m. 3.3. p.m. 8.30 p.m. A fine spirit is abroad in the troops. 250 men are chosen from QOR & 250 from Grenadiers. The selection has been well made and many fine men are under arms. Toronto is excited about it and collect in large crowds around the Barracks. If I studied my professional well being I would remain at home.

March 29, 1885 - Sunday

Lovely day - fitted for the quiet Sabbath, but not for warlike preparations. But, we are in the right and God's blessing will follow us. In his strength alone we can stand and in his strength I enlist and in his mercy I trust altho spiritually I wish I were stronger. We paraded at 2.30 today and were provided with under-clothing and pair socks, mittens and toque. Men are anxious to settle accounts with the rebel Niel. He is causing death unnecessarily and cruelly and if it takes millions of dollars, we must quell and punish this man.

The dear ones at home know nothing of my enlisting but have written them. Orders for tomorrow, Monday with rations and in marching order. Attended St James Sq Church this morning and appreciated sermon more on account of circumstances - Trusting in Great Captain - Save -

April 1, Wednesday - 1885

Started on train by Carlton Place - went on to North Shore R (CPR) - had a first class car and companions are very nice fellows. Left car about 11 p.m. and took sleighs, rode until morning, had breakfast at Contractor's Camp - a good one.

April 2, 1885 - Thursday

Reached Eastern end of section, took train, flat cars. Men not have room to sit down easily let alone lie down. Cold night, boys suffered intensely. Met Alex here, rode on engine. Engineer a Belleville boy. Tom Hardy. Came to Heron Bay, had breakfast 3 a.m. took sleep, very sleepy. Went to Pt Monroe.

April 3, 1885 - Friday

Left Pt Monroe on foot. Walked 20 miles, sun hot

roads bad. Some of boys gave out. Slept in a miserable cabin. The train ran off the track & detained us. Miserable night.

April 4, 1885 - Saturday

Reached McKays Harbor. Spent the night at McKays Harbor. Saw Alex Hoss. Slept in mule shed among the hay.

April 5, 1885 - Sunday

Had breakfast with Alex Hoss. Easter Sunday. Took train and went up to end of track. Walked up to Nipigon 10 miles. Nasty walking. Started for Winnipeg at 10 o'clock around the Nipigon river mouth on ice.

April 6, 1885 - Monday

Spent day on train tiresome and sleepless.

April 7, 1885 - Tuesday

Reached Winnipeg this morning, spent some time in the City. Made certain purchases - started for the west. Rumors of rebellion startling but unreliable.

April 8, 1885 - Wednesday

Reached Qu'Appelle. Camped out - some of troops went North to Touchwood Hills, we will go West and North to Battleford.

April 9, 1885 - Thursday

Spent day on guard at Qu'Appelle station. Troops arriving and departing - great expense and uncertain news. Food very bad - hard tack and tea.

April 10, 1885 - Friday

Acted as Cooks orderly this morning. Any work as long as duty calls. Started West this afternoon.

323 miles West of Winnipeg.

April 11, 1885 - Saturday

Reached Swift Current. 510 miles West of Winnipeg and pitched tents - country no good for agricultural purposes. Indians were here about one week ago. Settlers were robbed. Mounted Police here.

April 12, 1885 - Sunday

Had Divine Service. Lovely day - men in good spirits. The inmates of our tent - Fred Grierson (marching chum) wolf Thomas, Aneago, Costerton, Baldwin, Krievport, McKay, Sergeant Townsend, Geddes.

April 13, 1885 - Monday

Up at 4 a.m. and struck tents, received ammunition and after breakfasting on fat pork and tea started on the march for Battleford. Marched 15 miles and made to a small lake where we pitched tents. Battery, one Coy of Gov Gen Guards. Men stood out well, feeling first rate.

April 14, 1885 - Tuesday

Continued our march this morning. Quite a number of the men have sore feet and had to drop out. Reached the Saskatchewan River and camped out. Most beautiful scenery. About 28 miles from Swift Current. Had bath.

April 15, 1885 - Wednesday

Spent day on bank of South Saskatchewan - ferry not in working order, had pork and beans for breakfast, pork and tea and hard tack for dinner, hard tack and tea for supper. News of rebels and Indians still uncertain. Boys in good spirits. Hope God will direct that all may return safely.

April 16, 1885 - Thursday

Passed day at South Saskatchewan mending and getting ready for the march - we have had fine weather, stores are arriving - and the Boat the (Northcott) is nearly ready.

April 17, 1885 - Friday

Crossed the river - camped on the other side - spent the day in fixing up and getting something to eat hard tack and tea is our principal food - not fit for men expected to do our work.

April 18, 1885 - Saturday

Started about noon in wagons for Battleford, snow on the ground - seems warmer here than in Toronto - very crowded - 10 men in each wagon - hard tack and tea for supper - made about 10 miles - boys kick against hardtack.

April 19, 1885 - Sunday

The prairie scenery is very monotonous and one only has distant hills to look for hope of change. Buffalo tracks and bones and little slews of water are the only thing visible besides the prairie grass. Made about 28 miles.

April 20, 1885 - Monday

On On - up at 4, strike tents at 5, march at 6. walk 10 or 12 miles and ride distance remaining - some times very tired but they say the Indians are murdering and marauding - no news come in and we are anxious.

April 21, 1885 - Tuesday

Fine weather - making good time - will reach Battleford this week. About 250 teams in train. 750 men in troops.

April 22, 1885 - Wednesday

We have with us, 3 Battery, 3 Coy I School, 50 men 1 Coy Foot Guards, 50 men NW Mounted Police - and Scouts. It is a sight worth seeing, the serpent like train winding along the trail - Saw Indians in small band - made 35 miles.

April 23, 1885 - Thursday

Start out this morning expecting to see Battleford this evening - did so, camped about 3 miles from there. Houses are burning around Battleford - Boys a little excited, hope none of them will be left here or death comes. Came about 200 miles. -

April 24, 1885 - Friday

Came on to the Battle river and pitched camp on South side. Houses burned and ransacked by Indians. 1000's of dollars are destroyed and wasted, several men murdered. Battleford is rejoicing - Indians are around us. Battle is inevitable, may God be with us.

April 25, 1885 - Saturday

we are in a state of uncertainty, news have arrived that an engagement has taken place at Clarke's Crossing. We hope that none of our men have been killed but reports are so contrary, all blame thrown on Dewdney

and Sir John A., and his government - all wirepullers.

April 26, 1885 - Sunday

Beautiful day, had service at camp by Rev M Clarke, teacher of Industrial School. Lost, I thought, an opportunity of impressing soldiers with the awfulness of their mission.

April 27, 1885 - Monday

As to moving we know nothing, we remain here living on pork, hardtack and tea and lots of dirty fatigue work, but if it is part of our task, let us do it with spirit and wait developments. "Who is to blame?"

April 28, 1885 - Tuesday

Still camping on Battle River inactive and hearing of expensive movements in lower provinces irrespective of expense - all cooperative CoIs are engaged.

What spoilers at Ottawa.

April 29, 1885 - Wednesday

Rec'd orders that No 1 Coy QOa to the front, Nos 2 and 3 to Battleford as garrison. No 4 to remain here. Moved over but brought back to join No 1 to go to front.

April 30, 1885 - Thursday

Fred Grierson and myself have been chosen to accompany No 1 to front, we go willingly - my trust is on high for guidance and I know He doeth all things well. He will direct - often think of dear ones and home.

May 1, 1885 - Friday

Left the Industrial School Building the old Government house with 80 Mounted Police, 25 C School, 50 Guards G.G., 90 of Battery, 50 (about) QOa. We went West starting about 3 p.m. with 10 men to wagon. Camped at night about 15 miles away, acted as picquet, went on by moonlight.

May 2, 1885 - Saturday

Reached the Battleground at 4.45. Indians opened fire from three sides. QOa formed skirmishing line and I went to extreme left. Had hot fire bullet thru my overcoat. Fighting continued for 7 hours. Enemy punished severely. Number of QOa wounded. Retired from

valley at 11.30. Numbers of ours killed, drove for Battleford.

May 3, 1885 - Sunday

We reached camp last night at 10.30. Glad to get in, very tired - sleep soundly. Thankful to God for his watchful care and protection over me. Never realized the horrors of war before. Boys very interested and anxious to hear about it.

May 4, 1885 - Monday

Washed out. Buried 7 of our killed this morning. One left on field. Sad sight to see the poor friends of Battleford dead. The feeling exists that the Indians must pay dearly for this work. We expect reinforcements returned to our own tent across the river. A.S. Cassels came over from No 1 Coy on S of Battle and asked for volunteers.

May 5, 1885 - Tuesday

Engaged writing letters, know that dear ones at home will be anxious and thankful. Beautiful day. Only one of ten volunteers wounded. Lloyd shot thru shoulder. That death was near, we all thought and knew and God alone knew we would be delivered. We thank Him for deliverance.

May 6, 1885 - Wednesday

The monotony of camp life has settled down again. A private's life here is in many ways a menial one, fatigue work of every description, very different from work of Saturday, but when one comes to the ranks, the work must be done.

May 7, 1885 - Thursday

Our food mostly consists of hardtack biscuit and tea - pork and beans for a change. We hear the Toronto people are sending us out some. Never appreciated letters like I do now - this is real warfare. That no more blood be shed is my desire.

May 8, 1885 - Friday

Battleford will be injured by this outbreak but the people are hopeful that railway will be built soon. We saw some fine farm land as we drove out to the battlefield last Saturday. Nights are still cold, on guard at Fort last night.

May 9, 1885 - Saturday

Sent off long letter to Belleville, Ontario last night and copies of Battleford papers to friends - Cricket match between QOk and Mounted Police on outlying picquet.

May 10, 1885 - Sunday

Life is very monotonous here now, camping on the plain with nothing but the ordinary camp duties and miserable rations. The desire of the men is to have some activity or return as many of them are losing money. I attended the Presbyterian service conducted by Rev Mr Cameron. It was quite a treat after the dead formality of the service which has been given us lately. I can well understand how this life tends to carelessness in spiritual matters. So much petty tyranny and so little charity. God reigns tho and amid the most trying circumstances strength will come, the death of our companions in arms seems scarcely to have caused a serious thought in the minds of many.

May 13, 1885 - Wednesday

We have duty every 3rd night dividing the duties with the Battleford rifles and Mounted Police, Battery and Guards. We have outlying picquet, Quarter Guards, Barrack Guard and Bridge Guard in all about 80 men on duty.

May 14, 1885 - Thursday

The report is that Poundmaker is east of his old camping ground and making for the trail to get our wagons.

May 15, 1885 - Friday

A train of wagons was taken by the Indians and one of the Mounted Police killed. It is too bad to have things in this state.

May 17, 1885 - Sunday

Attended service and funeral of Elliott M.P. Very impressive, hope it will teach some of us the uncertainty of life and leave us to live as we will wish we had lived when we come to die. Cannot do the smallest act in our own strength. Attended Presbyterian service in the afternoon.

May 18, 1885 - Monday

The Guards have a cricket site and the QJh have a football and lacrosses, every evening we see part engaged in sport. This is the finest atmosphere in the world for sport.

May 19, 1885 - Tuesday

We expect Gen Middleton up and then we can march against the Indians. This life of inactivity is very trying. We came out here at a great sacrifice and are anxious to get back after defeating enemy.

May 20, 1885 - Wednesday

This evening all the teamsters who were captured a few days ago returned accompanied by other prisoners of Poundmaker's with a letter asking for peace and pardon. He heard of Niel's defeat which quite staggered him. The boys held quite a jubilee over this surrender.

May 21, 1885 - Thursday

We had some rain lately, I took chills this morning and about tea time went into quite a fever - biliousness I suppose. First sickness of an account I have had since started on March. Fred Grierson is also sick. This fat pork is killing stuff.

May 22, 1885 - Friday

Confined to my tent all day today with biliousness. Felt better towards evening. Ground damp.

Party went out to meet mails and train this morning. Wrote home.

May 23, 1885 - Saturday

Hear that Gen Middleton is on his way up here after having achieved a great and decisive victory at Batoches. The 90th of Winnipeg, the Royal Guards of Toronto, the Midland Battalion, part of C Coy I School, A Battery and 100 Scouts are under him.

May 24, 1885 - Sunday

Gen Middleton arrived here and brings part of troops. Feels very proud over their victory. Cut Knife Creek Battle is in the shade. We hope now to have decisive work.

attended service.

Note: See memorandum at end of book

May 25, 1885 - Monday

Poundmaker and other chiefs with halfbreeds came into camp this morning. Apparently trouble is all over in this quarter. He was confined to Guard Room. I was on guard over him. He is a fine looking Indian, Intelligent and becomes excited on the topic of treaties. Capt Dickens a son of Charles Dickens was officer of the day.

The Middleton Column has the advantage over us as far as fighting experience goes but so far we have obeyed duties and call. As concerns Otter's trip to Cut Knife it is meeting with adverse criticism. He was most unfortunate. All the QOn should have been taken out there. The result of the fight would have been different. But man proposes and God disposes.

we have now upwards of 1200 men here.

May 28, 1885 - Thursday

The weather is beautiful and our duties are light and with a near prospect of returning home. We are in very good spirits. Our salt pork and hard tack diet has been changed to fresh beef and veal. One Belleville Coy is with the Midland here.

May 29, 1885 - Friday

The thought of returning is a very happy one and one that I dwell on now. We have had such a hard time and still pleasure and satisfaction has mingled with it.

May 30, 1885 - Saturday

we have heard rumors all night but tonight was one of bitterness with the QOn. Big Bear is up and Gen Middleton refused to take out the QOn leaving them here for garrison duty, while inferior men have gone. A piece of jealousy.

May 31, 1885 - Sunday

Troops started for Fort Pitt this morning, we are left behind - great indignation prevails and no satisfaction can be got. The Gen gave but one answer a tyrannical "NO!" He wants his own troops I suppose. But perhaps all is directed properly. We do not know what motives Gen Middleton has, but we know that we are one of the best drilled corps in Canada and now we are left to do Garrison duty.

Col Otter perhaps is being punished for his drive out to Cut Knife but it seems hard to the members of QOn that we have been so inactive during the activity of engagements. The QOn feel that they should have a chance to prove themselves worthy of former reputation. But then, for my part, I am willing to let events take their course.

June 3, 1885 - Wednesday

Remainig camping on Battleford plain.

Routine duties break the monotony. There are three duties, Ferry, Barrack and Quarter Guards - the QOn furnish lion's share.

June 4, 1885 - Thursday

The long expected train of provisions appeared today. It was sent from home the first of last month, but owing to the Indians, was detained. H. Blake son of Mon Edward B. has charge - we are anxious.

June 5, 1885 - Friday

Our food lately has improved, fresh meat being provided - pork and beans taking a back place and bread instead of hard tack, so that, but for our inactivity, we would have a fine time. The days are very warm, but the nights are cool.

June 6, 1885 - Saturday

The sun light at this time of the year is always visible as we can see the illumination moving along the northern horizon and the only darkness is from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Aurora Borealis is grand, they bring to mind the beauties that the Great Creator has placed here and man in his puny helplessness presumes to defy Him. I hope that these mighty works will elevate my thoughts more and more to the ruler of Heaven and Earth. His kindness is beyond human comprehension. My desire is for humility on quarter guard.

Note: Commence pursuit of Big Bear with prisoners.

June 8, 1885 - Monday

At 2.30 struck tents to march north west to intercept Big Bear. Crossed the Saskatchewan in steaming "Baroness" bivouacked and reveille sounded at 3.30. Started between 4 and 5 a.m.

June 9, 1885 - Tuesday

Started between 4 & 5 a.m. and marched to Jack Fish Lake - 30 miles they say - it was a trying march and boys were very weary. The lake is a beautiful body of clear cold water. We have about 400 men - hard tack and tea.

June 10, 1885 - Wednesday

Reveille sounded at 3.30. Men had canned roast beef and hard tack and tea. Not very good food for long marches. Made march of 25 miles. Men's feet are sore, but in good spirits. Our destination is Turtle Lake, 6 miles from Battleford.

June 11, 1885 - Thursday

Continued march. If Big Bear around the men will punish him. The water is plenty and the country hilly and picturesque - made within a few miles of Turtle Lake.

June 12, 1885 - Friday

This morning we struck out South and marching in ravines and muskegs. We were guided by Half Breeds who failed to make a course. After marching all morning, we stopped within a mile from where we started. Men annoyed at such work - on Squirrel Plains - feet sore.

June 13, 1885 - Saturday

Continued our march to Turtle Lake, no indications of Indians. About 10 a.m. came to River, Turtle river I think. Found canal, the Lake is a short distance beyond, very nice to find, good water, after sleugh water. The night was cold, frost and rain - the first really disagreeable night.

June 14, 1885 - Sunday

Started out with 3 Coys of 90th, and Guards and walked out to Turtle Lake a beautiful sheet of water, an old deserted H. Bay Coy was here. The walk was thro a bushy poplar growth - very refreshing - God's day, gave thanks.

June 15, 1885 - Monday

Continued our stay, wrote letter to Father, Alex, McLaren and Mrs. Cockshutt. Day hot but we are lazily loafing around in the shade. Started on return to Battleford, met some of Middleton's Scouts - went 6 miles - soldier lost in woods.

June 16, 1885 - Tuesday

Turned back and went North East to Stony Lake about 10 miles. Evidently the troops intend to capture Big Bear. Camped on shore of lake, rather pretty place, upped tents. Hope we will soon get back. Good news from Toronto; will pass us if we are absent in August and remit fees.

June 17, 1885 - Wednesday

Continued our stay; enjoyed nice swim in lake - spending time reading and loafing. White Cap was captured or surrendered. He was Big Bear's Lieutenant. Wrote home.

Our clothes are wearing out.

June 18, 1885 - Thursday

Camp life monotonous, worse food, pork, hardtack and tea. Big Bear going North. Scouts out - Thunder storm to-night. Seems strange that country should be at such expense, 6000 a day and all after a petty chief. Boys anxious for duty or home. Middleton wants self glory. He evidently wants to magnify his battle at Satoche and Cut Fish. We hear that Niel recognizes Cut Knife as being the decisive battle, but Otter is a Canadian Colonel and Middleton an English General. We are still waiting for orders - out of tea and pork.

June 20, 1885 - Saturday

On quarter Guard - duties are easy, sentry go short and cool. No news of General Middleton. Big Bear still flying north. Provisions about out. Wagon arrived from Battleford with tea and sugar. Very warm in day, cool at night.

June 21, 1885 - Sunday

Beautiful day, had service, enjoyed it immensely. O what could the soul do without the thought of God and his loving care - wrote long letter home to Mother and one to Ontario. Read book by Guest and Faunce devoted to young men. Pray for guidance.

June 22, 1885 - Monday

Struck tents and left Stony Lake, made North East after Big Bear - made about ten miles and camped at stream, fresh water and mosquitoes - bivouacked. Boys in good spirits.

June 23, 1885 - Tuesday

Started out at 3.30 a.m., beautiful morning. Marched to Birch Lake, 25 miles from Stony and camped. No news about Big Bear, No improvement in rations. Regimental stuff not being issued. Fine weather, showers at night. Lake beautiful, bathing fine.

June 24, 1885 - Wednesday

Our scouts are still out after Big Bear and we await their arrival before acting. Our future course will be decided by Big Bear's position. Col Irvine is also after him.

NOTE: This caused a bit of a row in camp - Pte Fred Grierson looted a box of fancy biscuits here, we divided with QOr - regret I was a consenting party.

Biscuits will be dealt out. A great deal of dissatisfaction existing between officers and men concerning the distribution of Regimental stores which are not being dealt with proportionally: men consider that goods sent from our friends should be divided - share and share alike. Colonel spoke to men.

June 26, 1885 - Friday

Life grows monotonous here and our prospect of encountering Big Bear grows less so that after 3 weeks marching and rough camping we will return from this wild goose chase with less satisfaction than before starting out. Weather is suffocatingly warm, fine bathing.

June 27, 1885 - Saturday

Birch lake is a beautiful sheet of water and bathing is very popular. The poplar growth here is to considerable height, but evidence of fire is left in the form of large stumps. The grass is rank, but with grazing would be grand pasture.

June 28, 1885 - Sunday

Did not attend service this morning as I was on wood fatigue and spent time in woods with Grierson. Report is that we will leave here tomorrow forATTLEFORD. On Quarter Guard. Men's clothing wearing out.

June 29, 1885 - Monday

Spent night on Guard. Scouts came in. Orders for striking tents received - Left Birch Lake at 2.30 and made a slough on the way to Battleford about 10 miles away. - Men in good spirits.

June 30, 1885 - Tuesday

Reveille at 3 a.m. Started at 4 - marched about 12 miles to Jack Fish Lake and found a most lovely beach running 2 or 300 yards in the lake. The regiment went in to a man. In afternoon crossed creek to camping ground a few miles away.

July 1, 1885 - Wednesday - DOMINATION DAY

Started from Battleford at 3.30 a.m. and marched about 25 miles to Saskatchewan R. Men tired. Camped on N East side of Saskatchewan in full view of our destination. Pitched tents. Got letters from Alex, Jas Robertson and Bob Scott.

Note: Entered in 1940: - This was at W. Battleford - then prairie.

July 2, 1885 - Thursday - END OF CHASE AFTER BIG BEAR

Left with a small party in charge of Capt McDonald and Lieut Cassels to take some of Big Bear's men prisoners. Drive up to Jackfish Creek and up shore of Saskatchewan opposite Thunder Child's camp. Heavy rain - bivouacked. Swam in slough. Lost purse on way - found it on returning.

July 3, 1885 - Friday

Lovely scenery here. Returned to camp, having driven about 30 miles, prisoners had been taken by Mounted Police. During our absence Col Otter had given congratulatory address and told troops they were ordered home - crossed Sask river to Battleford to prepare stores for home.

July 4, 1885 - Saturday

Remained at Battleford all night - packing private boxes etc for the trip down river. Orders for home tomorrow when 90th, Midland and 65th come down from Fort Pitt. returned by small boat.

July 5, 1885 - Sunday

Struck tents, boys feeling happy on thoughts of going home. Steamers, "Northwest", "Marquis", and "Baroness" here. We go on the "Northwest" with Midland Batt. Strong wind - got aboard steamer and got ready to start. Sabbath not normally observed.

July 6, 1885 - Monday

Started this morning early and made about 15 miles when tied up on account of wind as Steamer continuously running foul of shoals. Continued while wind went down. Very pleasant sailing down river.

July 7, 1885 - Tuesday

Slept soundly, packed in like herrings in a box, but consider ourselves fortunate in not having been sent across the prairie. The QOs have good supply of private stores, came to Carlton which was in ruins. Scenery monotonous.

July 8, 1885 - Wednesday

Steamer less obstructed by shoals. Reached Prince Albert, stirring place. Met Fred Baker from Belleville. He lost stores during rebellion. A great number of Indians and Half breeds around. A great number of Mounted Police. Crozier of Belleville here. Passed Forks and made good time.

July 9, 1885 - Thursday

Scenery on Saskatchewan is very monotonous, but on grand scale no difficulty navigating now, ran nearly all night. The immensity of this valley, little realized we are yet over 300 miles from mouth of river and speeding along 12 and 15 miles an hour.

July 10, 1885 - Friday

Struck Fort Paw. Came on to Cedar Lake and made Grand Rapids at 4.45 p.m. This is at head of rapids and an old HB Coy Post. The other boats are not here. On Quarter Guard. Go by trail mostly to west below Rapids. Glad to think of "Home".

July 11, 1885 - Friday

Walked to Post named Keewatin, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles and went aboard barge "Saskatchewan". The other boats not here. Grenadiers and 90th arrived.

July 12, 1885 - Sunday

waiting for "Alberta" which has the Coy from Belleville and who accompanied the wounded. Strong wind blowing. Steamer "Princess", tug and 3 barges are here to accompany or carry us.

July 13, 1885 - Monday

Started about 11.30 - "Princess" taking 90th Batt and Midland Batt in Barge "Winnipeg". QOn and Grenadiers in "Saskatchewan" and 65th and Guards in "Red River". Ran out of river into Lake Winnipeg and had rough weather at night. Stowed away like herrings in a box, a rather hazardous venture for if storm came on, we would suffer with these heavy boxes around us. Write this in hole of barge, with boys lying around and candles burning. Expect to make Fort tonight.

July 15, 1885 - Wednesday

Reached Selkirk where the people gave us a lunch. The day was fine and being on the fatigue party, had little chance of getting around the town. Left for Winnipeg about 4 p.m. with 90th Battln., Grenadiers and Guards.

July 16, 1885 - Thursday

Raining all last night - piled arms and accoutrements in a vacant field and found our own lodging. The Winnipeggers gave the QOn an especially welcome greeting and everywhere we are received kindly. Fred and the boys are having a fine time. Arms and stuff in an awful mess.

July 17, 1885 - Friday

The boys are doing the city - their first taste of civilization for nearly 4 months. Sorry to see so much drinking but it is partly excusable. Marched out with the 90th in the civic procession - great and lively proceedings.

July 18, 1885 - Saturday

About time we got out of Winnipeg. The main arch is a magnificent structure on Main Street, just on the far side from station of Town Hall in front of Hyans Boot store - everything appears new. Troops are leaving by every train.

July 19, 1885 - Sunday

Orders to leave today, paraded at 10 a.m. Got things together as well as possible and marched down to train. Got dinner and amid enthusiasm left. Glad to get away.

July 20, 1885 - Monday

My 24th Birthday.

Saw Fred Conniff at Portage. Rather uncomfortable situation in second class car - another piece of priggishness on part of CPN.

Boys feeling well.

July 21, 1885 - Tuesday

Reached Port Arthur where boat Athabasca was in waiting. We were packed like sheep in here about 1000 men where we were uncomfortable. The CPN seems to run things how it pleases. Started in fog.

July 22, 1885 - Wednesday

Still foggy and were detained going into the Sue. Got in diving in the afternoon. The river looking beautiful. Our meals are miserable apologies and only two per diem - dissatisfaction exists - Down the river.

July 23, 1885 - Thursday

Crossed over to Owen Sound where we received a good Ontario ovation, our own friends greeting us once more. Thankful to get back to this Province, it looks like a garden. Got into Toronto where the reception was something, quite bewildering, thousands upon thousands met us and one continuous deafening cheer went up along the whole line of march which was as follows, down Young, along Queen to Brock, down Brock to King, along King to Drill shed. Something I will never forget.

July 24, 1885 - Friday

Met Alex yesterday in Toronto, we took rooms at Owens. Waiting for dismissal - got it this afternoon. Went home and met the dear ones at home. Had a midnight lunch and after talking couple of hours went to bed, thanking God for his kindness to one so unworthy.

July 26, 1885 - Sunday

The reality of reaching home is grander than the anticipation - old scenes, companions, meet one at every turn. I miss the hearty welcome which dear sister Jenny would have given, but all is well. Father came up from Kingston.

July 27, 1885 - Monday

The papers are full of news concerning the reception of troops in different quarters of Canada, each town thinking a great deal about their own heroes, but Toronto carried off the palm.

July 28, 1885 - Tuesday

Drove out to grandpa's at Melrose with Alex. Had a long slow drive and a good talk about future prospects. Things look bright and we push on knowing that God seeth us.

July 29, 1885 - Wednesday

Spent day fishing at Salmon river. Old scenes revisited and fish caught as of yore. A year ago we were camping here, but now the liveliest one of the party is no more. Welcome from Melrose friends.

July 30, 1885 - Thursday

Great discussions going on about the person who led the charge at Batoche. Makes little difference as most have the spirit and whoever led should be thankful for the opportunity.

July 31, 1885 - Friday

Time mostly spent in talking Northwest matters with friends and at home. Alex has been waiting for my return and will shortly start for the North West States to settle in Minneapolis. Expect Fred Grier-son down.

August 1, 1885 - Saturday

The Ontario Law Society will, I hear, allow our final examinations. In that case, I will take things easy for a few weeks. Father has a contract in Kingston and only comes up to spend Sabbath.

August 2, 1885 - Sunday

Spending time generally in loafing around, I can easily understand how a soldier with years of experience make a poor professional man.

August 5, 1885 - Wednesday

Went over to Sandbanks today to see Mr Bell about papers, he is at Wellington. Alex and I spent a very agreeable day.

August 6, 1885 - Thursday

Fred Grierson my most intimate friend in the Northwest campaign arrived here today to spend some days with me. It is good to see his face so familiar during the roughing we had - a good fellow.

August 7, 1885 - Friday

I spent day in town with Fred. Alex and I showing him the sights. Spent evening at Mrs. Mathieson's at Deaf and Dumb Institute.

August 8, 1885 - Saturday

Loafed about town in heform Club rooms and everywhere of interest. Intensely lazy and idle I presume.

August 9, 1885 - Sunday

Attended our own church in morning. Dr. Jeffers presided and St Thomas in the evening with Fred who is of that persuasion.

August 10, 1885 - Monday

Took "Hero" at six a.m. and went to Picton. Thence drove to Sandbanks - spent a few quiet hours enjoying the great bands and scenery. Fred liked the day. Got home at midnight.

August 11, 1885 - Tuesday

Arrangements made for family picnic. Went down to Massassaja Point with family and a few friends. Spent enjoyable day with Alex for some time. Father not well, went down to Kingston saying Good-bye to Alex at station.

August 12, 1885 - Wednesday

Got into Kingston about 3 a.m. Went to bed, up at 5.30. Walked up to Asylum where father's work is, gave plans and message to foreman. Came back to hotel and waited and rested until afternoon. Alex went this morning to Minneapolis. Father better - came home.

August 13, 1885 - Thursday

Father went down again to Kingston, hope he will be none the worse for his little illness. He works on so bravely. May God spare him for many years. Fred Grierson went to Campbellford.

September 12, 1885 - Saturday

Came to Toronto and was disappointed about being called to the bar thro little irregularity in papers. Secured a nice quiet boarding house.

See "History of North west Rebellion" by Mulvaney
Page 420.

September 18, 1885 - Friday

Was called to the bar today at Osgoode Hall.

This was the day fixed for the execution of Niel according to Dr. C.P. Mulvaney who wrote history of NW Rebellion.

Note: Niel was hanged on Nov 16th.

September 22, 1885 - Tuesday

was sworn in as Barrister & Solicitor today together with Wolf Thomas, Fred Grierson and H McKee.

September 25, 1885 - Friday

Spent evening at Edgars M.P. Pleasant time Jimmy E was out in the west with us.

September 28, 1885 - Monday

Father came up this morning to look over plans for Orillia Asylum.

September 29, 1885 - Tuesday

Spent part of day with father, was at McLaren's and Scotts during afternoon. Father went home.

September 30, 1885 - Thursday

Peter came up to Toronto this morning, took him up to Prof McLaren's.

October 2, 1885 - Friday

Busy arranging for settlement in Belleville to practise there.

October 3, 1885 - Saturday

Spent evening at Prof McLaren's.

October 4, 1885 - Sunday

Attended St James Sq Pres Church. Took Peter there for B.C. and church in evening.

October 5, 1885 - Monday

Spent afternoon with Peter, took him to Scott's in the evening.

October 7, 1885 - wednesday

Arrived home this evening and found all the dear ones at home well. Father being absent in Kingston. D. McLaren who is engaged to Belle is here visiting.

October 8, 1885 - Thursday

went around to see if I could get any office to rent - feel anxious about settling which of course is natural.

October 10, 1885 - Saturday

Found a desirable location in Ashley Block.

October 11, 1885 - Sunday

Father is home this morning, he is not very well. Rev Mr Litsnell preached. General dissatisfaction is rampant and I am afraid he will have to leave he is not able to conduct work of church.

October 12, 1885 - Monday

Located in the "Ashley Block" and ordered work to be done in way of signs etc.

Hope to deal honestly and uprightly though I know I am weak and my thoughts are evil.

October 13, 1885 - Tuesday

Have decided a severe course of reading during the winter.

October 15, 1885 - Thursday

Put professional card in both local papers. \$10 & \$12.

November 16, 1885 - Monday

Kiel was hanged to-day after some long delays. It is not the Government's fault that he has not been found insane as this perpetual respite is enough to over-balance the soundest head. He has paid the penalty of his crimes amid a great deal of buffoonery.

November 26, 1885 - Thursday

Sent \$1 for the relief of C. Chusigny whose books have been banned. It can't be said with us and our n.C. brethren behold how these Christians love one another. I hope that the time will come when acts of violence will be condemned by everyone professing to be Christians.

December 25, 1885 - Friday

Alex came in from Melrose. We are all home except Jenny who has gone to her long home.

Spent pleasant day.

December 31, 1885 - Thursday

Spent this evening with Mr. Northrup and party. David McLaren has been here for a week. Miss Gregg also in town.

Saw the old year out and sang "Auld Lang Syne". Hope next year will find me better than this.

M E M O R A N D U M

Louis Riel was at the head of the Rebellion in 1870 and there committed outrages that even now causes us to shudder. The Metis regard him as their patriotic leader. - A man of some education described as equal in ability to the average public man of Canada.

In his own language he is fluent and powerful. By some he is regarded as a mere mischief maker and an adventurer whose business is insurrection and disturbance. He played the role of a religious enthusiast. His manner in ordinary conversation is pleasant, but when in power he assumes an air of great importance.

Human laws are made, not to nourish sin, but to prevent crime and mischief.

Disprision of Felony

Cut Knife Creek engagement took place on the morning of May 2. I was in No. 3 Coy and only No. 1 Coy was to be taken, but 10 extra men of experience were taken from Nos 2 and 3 Coys. I was one of the men taken from No. 3 Coy. We, Nos 2 and 3 Coys were at the new town of Battleford which was North of the Battle River. No. 1 Coy was at the old town where the Govt House had been turned into an Industrial farm for Indians. We found these buildings looted when we reached Battleford and a squad were detailed to search the buildings - all we found left by the Indians were worthless discarded clothes and furniture except a barrel of bottled Apollinars water which the officials left - it was no good for anything.

On May 25th when Poundmaker surrendered and placed in Guard House with about 6 others, I was placed in the room with them. They sat on a platform, one Stoney Indian a self confessed murderer lying face down. I asked Poundmaker through an interpreter who he was and he said "a bad Indian - killed white man".

Poundmaker was cleaning his face with small tweezers and I was told by a Metis or half breed, a number of whom were in the barred cells, that he, P, was pulling out the small hairs as this was their way of shaving - I gave him a pocket mirror. He got up and took off a fine beaded buck skin jacket and offered it to me in return - I refused it.

The next time I saw him he was playing cards in the
jail and had no jacket.

He told me that he was loyal and showed me the
big silver medal "The Queen's daughter gave him as
guide". This was Princess Louise. He said the
Government officials were cheating the Indians.

MEMORANDUM

Astrea - daughter of Zeus and Themis
Goddess of Justice. She lived on earth during
the golden age; but the wickedness of mankind
drove her to heaven during the bronze and iron
ages. She was placed among the constellations
under the name of Virgo and is presented holding
a pair of scales in one hand and a sword in the
other.

Themis - daughter of Uraems and Ge mother of Astrea,
Irene and Parcae, the personification of Law and
Equity.

MUSAE - daughters of Jupiter and Muenos.
Yne - 9 in number.

- | | | |
|----|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Clio | Muse of History |
| 2. | Eutupe | Muse of Lyric Poetry |
| 3. | Thalia | Muse of Comedy |
| 4. | Melpomene | Muse of Tragedy |
| 5. | Teepsichore | Muse of Choral Dance |
| 6. | Arato | Muse of Anatomy Poetry |
| 7. | Polyhumina | Muse of Rhetoric and Eloquence |
| 8. | Uraina | Muse of Astronomy |
| 9. | Calliope | Muse of Ethic Poetry |

National Deities of G. C. K.

- | | | |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| Jupiter | - | King |
| Neptune | - | Sea King |
| Vulcan | - | Fire and Iron |
| Mars | - | War |
| Mercury | - | Messenger |
| Appollo | - | Fine Arts |
| Juno | - | Queen |
| Minerva | - | Wisdom |
| Vesta | - | Hearth |
| Ceres | - | Plenty |
| Venus | - | Love |
| Diana | - | Woods and Hunting |

M E M O R A N D U M

PSYCHE
(Willis)

"Ay, for the soul is better than its frame
The spirit than its temple, What's the brow
Or the eye's lustre, or the step of pride
Or colour, but the beautiful links that chain
The mind from its rare element? There lies
A Talisman in intellect which yields
Celestial music when the Master hand
Touches it cunningly. It sleeps beneath
The outward semblance and to common sight
Is an invisible and hidden thing;
But when the lip is faded and the cheek
Robbed of it's daintiness, and when the form
Witches the sense no more and human love
Falters in it's idolatry this spell
Will hold it's strength embroken and go on
Stealing anew the affections.

Marvel not

That love leans sadly on his bended bow
He had found out the loveliness of mind
And he is spoilt for beauty. So twill be
Ever - the glory of the human form
Is but a perishing thing and love will droop
When its brief grace hath faded; but the mind
Perisheth not and when the outward charm
Hath had its brief existence, it awakes
And is the lovelier that it slept so long
Like wells, that, by the wasting of their flow
Have had their deeper fountains broken up. "

Sandy, we'd better be thinking of joining some church.

Yes, Janet.

Well, Sandy, say we join the Kanters.

May Janet, there's nothing there but work, work, work. We'll join the Kirk.

May, Sandy, there's nothing there but faith, faith, faith.

Next day.

Janet, we can't decide betwixt the Kirk and Kanters, we'll join the English Church, there's neither work nor faith there.

Letter - Page 1

146 Mutual St
Toronto, Mar 28/85

Dear Father.

A strange hour to be writing home between 2 and 3 o'clock Sunday morning, but then this has been a day of continuous engagements right up to present moment. This morning I was awakened by one of the boys coming to my room and saying "the Queen's Own are ordered out to the North-West", "if they are", I said, "then I go with them". "but", he said, "there may be only 250 men taken from each battalion," "well, if they go along the North Shore of Lake Superior, I will go if there are only 100 taken." I said. I well knew that I could get on the Battalion or that my knowledge of the North Shore would be of value and altho there were many over 500 applicants, only 250 have been selected and I am one. I joined the Queen's Own for the first time but my service in the 15th and 49th Battalions comes in well and then, a young Mr. Cassels from our office is Lieutenant in it and he is also going. We were called out for parade at 9 A.M., let off at 2, called at 3.30, let off at 6 and again paraded as the North West Contingent at 8.30. We have received orders to hold ourselves in readiness and consider ourselves in active service.

There are a fine lot of fellows selected for our Company - University men - medicals - lawyers, law students and young men who have nothing to gain but the upholding of the reputation of the people of this part of Canada. The sympathies of many lower Canadians are with this Rebel in the West but if the affair is not put down before we get there, I think that the men who stood around me today will uphold the Anglo Saxon reputation as also the Celt and claim of Canada to consider herself a country, who, when duty calls to arms in the proper direction, will always receive a ready response from her sons.

We start on Monday morning as far as orders are concerned but may go tomorrow. We go by Ottawa via Quebec and Ontario Railway so that I will not be able to see you before I go; then we take the C.P.R. for Winnipeg, but before we get to Winnipeg there are going to be more than one sick boy in the Battalion for that North Shore will be by far the worst part of it. I know people at nearly every port there, but then the Railway accommodation is of the poorest kind and many will wish themselves back. We will not get to Winnipeg for 2 weeks at least.

I got a letter from Alex yesterday dated the

6th of this month, he is well and hardly knows when he will finish his work up there. He will of course be glad to see me as we strike up by his Hospital and I expect he will meet us a great many miles this side of White River Hospital.

I send Peter's book "David's Ancient Manual" by this post. It cost \$1. Which is quite a reduction on the Belleville price - I have my books, clothes and everything I possess here packed away in two trunks. I wished for Emma's neat way of packing but then I had a great many books so that I had to buy a new trunk, a cheap thing, and have now everything in them. If we get orders countermanding the ones we have and stay at home, of course there is no use of sending them, but if this rebellion increases and we are forced thro' why we will be gone for some months and you had better send after my trunks which are ready to be shipped, and open them and put the clothes away where the women folks know best. The cause of this rebellion to a very appreciated extent is due to the course adopted by that Time-Server at Ottawa, Sir John - buying him, Kiel, off. He wants to be bought off again but as the boys say, the price that we will pay is an ounce of lead. Many of those poor unfortunate half-breeds are guided and deluded by him - we are receiving news every hour but there is as far as reliable information is concerned nothing startling. Poor Crozier has had a hard time.

This will not interfere with my examinations as far as time is concerned or, at least I think not, and if I return I can get them on in August or try. My trip home to which I have been looking has been nipped in the bud but then if all goes well, as we foolishly say, I will spend some time home reading for my exam, then I will see Alex and let him have the news and he will be glad to see me. I am glad that Lizzie is well once more - she must look out for this changeable weather, it is treacherous you know. I will let you know before I start for Winnipeg how things are, as for myself, I think I am doing right and with perfect confidence in the Great Captain of Salvation wherever I am.

With much love to all, your aff son,
John.

P.S. I got your letter with enclosure.
If you want to know anything about my things
write P.D. Cunningham - he lives here.