

gains, primarily. Its day has gone by as a monopoly, but in considering its past, the wisdom of its management, the high *esprit de corps* among its servants, its old-fashioned hospitality, and its honourable dealings with the Indians, we gladly pay it a tribute of respect rather than cast dirt on its memory.

I need not describe here how our party travelled last August from Fort Garry to Edmonton, as my diary will be published in book form probably before these pages are in the hands of the readers of the MARITIME MONTHLY. The memory of those successive days so bright and breezy, and nights that were always cool, with soft showers, or dew so heavy that it amounted to the same thing, will abide long with us. This feature of an exceedingly moist summer is the most striking fact about the meteorology of the North-west, and in our experience it fortunately happened that most of the moisture fell in the nights, while the days were sunny:

Nocte pluit totâ, redeunt spectacula mane.

Up in the morning early, the cry of "lève, lève," rousing every one from sleep; a glance from the tent door at the deep wet grass, and the embers of last night's fire, across level or rolling prairie to a misty horizon, and up at a grey or cloudy sky that threatens a comfortless morning ride; a hurried packing of blankets and striking of tents, while the men bring in the horses and yoke them to the carts; a cup of tea, hot, fragrant, delicious, which the cook has prepared in the meanwhile; each man then picks out his horse from the drove, saddles and bridles him, mounts, and is away westward before the night is over. The air is cool, actually chilly at first, but the rapid motion stirs the warm blood, and soon the rosy finger of morning is succeeded by the pale light spread over the sky, and if you turn round now you can see the sun rising from his grassy bed, full-orbed as he rises from the sea. On you ride deeper into the unknown land. The air is now sweet and flower-scented. It is warm enough to permit you to throw off your jacket, and a few hours after you may dispense with waistcoat too; but almost every day is breezy, and the heat is seldom oppressive. After three or four hours' ride, the first halt is called, and as the carts come up, "the kitchen" is unpacked, and a breakfast of fried pork or hot pemmican is prepared. Two or three hours are spent in resting, bathing, if a lake or stream