

Oct. 2ND.—A strong gale of wind. Two Iroquois stopped the night, at our camp. Johnny was delighted at the prospect of a trio, but a duet was all that came off, one of them, being so tired, he could not sing. The two performers—one on the drum, and the other on the tin pot—sat with their backs to the audience, whilst they performed. They were good enough to translate some of the songs, for our benefit. "Where is the Chief's tent? Come to the Chief's tent! That we may drink tea." It was much approved of. Also, "We thought we saw white people. We thought we saw white people; And that we drank tea. It turned out true;" and, as a finale, "Go for water once more (*i.e.* for tea); And we will go to our lodges. The daylight breaks, my brother." As to tune, Alice says she distinguishes a difference. It may be so. The concert had not concluded when we went to sleep.

Oct. 3RD.—The Indians departed. Tait's horse knocked up. Camped at Round Lake.

Oct. 4TH.—Tait's horse could go no further; so left him near water, with good feed, and a bell round his neck. Met Connor returning to Kamloops, and sent a letter by him to Mr. Tait. Camped at Lake St. Ann's, and revelled in fresh milk, sugar, and potatoes, and white fish. Here we met our old friend, the Assiniboine, to whom I gave the axe, who greeted us cordially, and, by-and-bye, our camp was surrounded by their braves and squaws. They are just back from a hunt, having killed 90 moose and many beaver. Arranged with Mr. Kirkness, to send for Tait's horse.

Oct. 5TH.—Called on the Roman Catholic Priest. The weather perfectly delicious, which made our canter along the edge of the lake quite delightful.

On the 8TH, we arrived at Big Lake. Sending on our train to Edmonton, we rode to the Mission, according to promise, and were most kindly received. They took us again to the School, where two Indian girls acted a little play in English, specially learned for us, and most capitally they did it. Then two boys and two girls were called up, who, after reading several sentences from an English, book, translated it easily into French with little or no hesitation. They then parsed the English words, and, in short, surprised us much with their thorough knowledge of both English and French. We then returned to the Sisters' pretty house, and were given a most excellent dinner, which, however, the early hour—10.30 a.m.—would hardly permit us to do justice to. And, on going away, Alice was presented with a flower from their garden, prettily preserved in a medallion, and to myself they gave a beautifully-worked pair of moccasins. We then went on to Fort Edmonton, and found Mr. Hardisty had a boat built for us; but the river is so low, he recommended our only going down by water as far as Victoria.

On the evening of the 9TH, bidding Mr. and Mrs. Hardisty good-bye, we started, laden with luxuries by Mrs. Hardisty's kindness, accompanied by John Macbeth and with two boatmen—Alexander is to meet us with the horses at Victoria.

Oct. 10TH.—We made but little progress, having to stop frequently, the boat being leaky, and we having to bale her frequently. Many ducks on the river; but they are very wild. Shot one.

Oct. 11TH.—Stopped and watched three gold miners at work, at the edge of the river. They most civilly showed us the process. A sloping wooden trough, closed at the higher end, sheds on to a set of iron bars, forming a kind of roof over a wooden box, with an opening at the bottom of one side. The bars are about half-an-inch apart. A blanket is stretched below them, at the bottom of the box, at a slight incline towards the opening. The earth and mud is shovelled into the trough by one man, whilst another keeps lading in water, by which it is washed on to the roof, which throws off the gravel and stones. The finer sand and mud passing through, falls on the blanket, off which the light sand and earth are washed away, leaving only the heavy black sand and gold dust. The blankets, at regular intervals, washed into another box, which thus contains the black sand and gold. To separate these, after pouring off the water, quick-silver is mixed with the mass, which collects all the gold dust, in the form of amalgam. This is wrung out, through caribou leather, which squeezes the superfluous quick-silver out, to be used again. Lastly, the amalgam being subjected to heat in a pan, the quick-silver goes off in vapour, leaving pure gold dust. I never saw such wet, disagreeable work. The two men we saw, were making eight to ten dollars a-piece per day. Stopped at Fort Saskatchewan, and got the seed of the mountain rye, from Constable Tabor, he kindly loading our boat with vegetables from his garden. Killed four ducks.

Oct. 12TH.—Saw three grey wolves. The water very low; the boat constantly getting fast. Killed sixteen ducks and a goose.

SUNDAY.—The weather cold and cloudy. Pierre, one of our boatmen—a half-breed—an excellent fellow, though half-witted, is very amusing. He gives us an account of a blackbird that wintered at Fort Edmonton; and, as it only appeared on sunny days, no one could imagine where he hid. "At last," said Pierre, "he was discovered in a heap of buffalo robes warm, steaming." Reached Fort Victoria. Mr. Brereton, the officer in charge, was most kind. We had supper with him. He gave Alice a specimen of the Saskatchewan gold of his own finding; and gave me a prettily-worked Cree-fire-bag! Alexander got here last night.

Oct. 15TH.—Bought a good-looking, but unbroken grey, for 100 dollars, with a buffalo line to catch him with. Named him "Jim." We camped 15 miles from Victoria.

Oct. 16TH.—Rode my new horse, who will soon get gentle with quiet treatment. We were overtaken by a half-breed named Cardinal, and his son, who were returning from an unsuccessful hunt on the plains. Camped near Saddle Lake, and Cardinal presented us with some smoked white fish.

Oct. 17TH.—Before starting, Cardinal brought us another present of four large white fish, and cooked one for us on a gridiron made of willows, for our breakfast. Camped by Dog's Rump Creek.