

May 5th. Heavy rain ; some snow. Seine, but take nothing. *7th.* Finished the fort. I gave the men a gallon of high wine and some sugar. Desfond [Duford] quarreled and parted from his wife ; he wished to detain his son, a boy about nine years of age ; but the little fellow preferred to go with his mother, and on leaving the house fired three arrows at his father, but missed him ; for, although the old man was intoxicated, he had sense enough to avoid the arrows, and allowed the child to walk off with his mother. *9th.* Set a sturgeon net, the first ever put in this river, the usual manner of taking sturgeon being with the seine. It required 90 fathoms of net to cross the river, as the water is high, and the strong current forms a great bend ; it was with much difficulty we could set it. *11th.* Nine inches of snow. Water falling ; it had risen almost as high as last year. Caught one sturgeon. *12th.* An Indian and his family arrived in a small canoe from Red lake, bringing news that the Sioux had killed seven Saulteurs in that quarter, all nearly related to those who are camped here drunk. The man had scarcely landed before they were in an uproar, bawling, howling, and lamenting the death of their relations, the end of which was to beg rum to wash the sorrow from their hearts. *15th.* Indians sober. I began to sow garden seeds. Joseph Cyr deserted under pretense of going to Portage la Prairie. Men bringing home calves daily. *18th.* We take plenty of sturgeon. Indians tormenting me for liquor gratis. *20th.* Indians performing their grand medicine, as usual in the spring. *21st.* A small canoe arrived from Portage la Prairie, bringing nearly a bushel of potatoes for seed, some ammunition, tobacco, etc. Made my packs, began the pemmican, and planted my potatoes. Mr. Cameron arrived from Grandes Fourches. Mosquitoes and woodlice in abundance. *24th.* Cabbage appeared above ground. I purchased horses from the Indians, sold them to the men at 200 G. V. P. Cy.¹⁸ each, and

¹⁸ So copy—I suppose it means Grand Portage currency, reckoned in French livres, as distinguished from Halifax currency, reckoned in English £. s. d.