

coast. A week of unfavorable weather entirely prevented us from obtaining suitable observations; but on the 7th of August we obtained a good observation of the solar eclipse, from which we were able to compute an approximate longitude, sufficiently accurate to set at rest the question at issue, and inform our traders that they were in American territory.

It seems proper to say, in this connection, that by General Halleck's permission I had consented temporarily to represent the Treasury Department, and under the instructions of that Department, on the 9th of August, at 12 m. I notified the representative of the Hudson Bay Company that the station is in the territory of the United States; that the introduction of trading goods, or any trade by foreigners with the natives, is illegal, and must cease; and that the Hudson Bay Company must vacate the buildings as soon as practicable. I then took possession of the buildings and raised the flag of the United States over the fort.

Early on the morning of August 10 the steamer started on her return trip down the river, leaving Mr. Westdahl and Moses in charge of the trading-station which had been established at the fort. I also remained, with Mr. Major and Private Foley, in order to obtain observations for more accurate determinations. The nights were so light as to greatly embarrass astronomical observations, and I desired, therefore, to remain as long as possible.

In the latter part of August the river commenced falling rapidly. This, we presumed, was occasioned by the freezing of the tributaries near their sources, and it was regarded as an indication that the season was near its close. We reluctantly decided that it would be unsafe to delay our departure longer, and made our arrangements to leave the fort early on the 27th.

I was anxious to employ the bark canoes of the country for our journey, as they are considered by far the best boats for this sort of travel, and this opinion is confirmed by my subsequent experience; but none could be obtained. The ingenuity of Moses had, however, devised and, with our assistance, constructed a small skiff of well-seasoned timber sawn from spruce drift-logs. She was calked with rags, and finally coated thickly with pitch. Moses called her the "Eclipse."

On the evening of the 26th she was completed, and we placed her in the water, fastening her with a strip of moose-hide. On the next day we intended to dismantle our observatory, and toward evening begin our journey. But in the morning we discovered that the hungry dogs of the station had eaten the moose-skin fastening, and our boat had started off on an independent voyage to the coast. A pursuit was immediately instituted, and toward evening the party returned, bringing with them the Eclipse, in a somewhat dilapidated condition. In excuse for the dogs, it should be added that they are fed but once a week during the summer.

This little accident was the occasion of some delay; but on the 28th of August, at 4 p. m., we finally left the fort. The party consisted of Mr. Major, Private Foley, and myself, and two natives, who had been brought up from Nukato, and were to accompany us as far as that place. We were obliged to leave our observatory tents and some of our instruments, to be sent down at the first convenient opportunity. We took with us, however, a small A tent, which had been used as a magnetic observatory. For provisions we had a ham, a small piece of bacon, and a little hardback, and about twenty-five pounds of "moose pemmican," a very seasonable present from Mr. Wilson. This pemmican is an article of considerable importance among the traders of the Hudson Bay