

Journal of a Journey over Land from Buckingham House to the Rocky Mountains in 1792 & 3
by Peter Fidler

1792

1

November 8th Thursday - a few Days ago a pretty large band of Pe kan ow or Muddy river Indians [Peigan or Piikani] came to the Houses to Trade, and I and John Ward accompanied them to remain with them during the Winter & to return here in the Spring. the time these Indians always do, as they only Visit the Houses twice a Year Spring & Fall – The Indians had little Trade in with them to the House – & Consequently could not purchase what necessaries they required, the greater part of them went away dissatisfied and as they are a war like people not a man would accompany me on that account as they was much afraid that they would take their Horses & property from them, besides ill use them. Such was the reasons that no person would trust to go with them except John Ward. Several of our people have been with those Indians, remaining with them for several Winters & used to make a small Trade with them. The Indians are going farther to the South along the mountain this than any former winter of late when our people have been with them. I got the following Articles from Mr. Colen at the Factory as part of a supply as presents for Indians, &c. to get other necessaries from Mr. Tomison at Buckingham House for the above purpose – from Mr. Colen, Tobacco roll 13 lbs, Vermillion 4 oz, Flints 20, Beads common 1 lb. Beads China $\frac{2}{3}$, Knives womens 6, & yew handle knives 6, amounting to 19 $\frac{1}{6}$ MB. The following articles I received from Mr. Tomison at Buckingham House as supplies as presents to Indians, &c. viz-Tobacco brazil lbs 12, Tob roll 4 lbs. Knives women 18, yew handle 6, Pocket 2, Flints 10, Powder 12 lbs., Ball 7 lbs Shot Bristol 7 lbs. Worm Gun 2 Steels fire 4, Hatchets oval Eye 2, File 1, Bayonets large flatt 2, Beads common 3 lbs, Beads large 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Kettle 2,

November 8th Galls 1 lb. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ Amounting in the whole to 39 MB - With Mr Colens the Total is 58 $\frac{1}{6}$ MB - To give Indians for keeping us &c During all the Winter & as presents - Mr Tomison supplied me with 2 Horses, one to carry my necessaries & the other to ride on - John Ward had also two - all the Indians returned back to their own Country, that came here to Trade a few Days ago, except the Chief, one Man & One Woman we remained here waiting till we was ready ~ at 2 Pm we took leave of Mr Tomison & crossed the Horses over the river, which was full of driving Ice & very dangerous, made a Large fire after we crossed to warm & dry them after swimming across the river - then went up the Bank on South side, which is very thicketty & steep in several places SW 2 & came to the top of the Bank - then we went ESE 3 more open & level, with small asp & willows, put up at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm - Fresh breezes at ESE, Flying Clouds - The Instruments I have with me are a Brass sextant of 5 or 6 Inches radius made by Ramsden; Parallel Glasses with Quicksilver horizon - a Brass Boat compass card 3 Inches Diameter - A Common watch but good without a seconds hand, & a pocket Farenheits Thermometer well graduated made by Dollond London - John Ward & myself don't know a single word of what the Indians say that we are going with - time only can enable us to Learn - I much wished some one of those of us then to accompany me that had been at the Rocky Mountains before & understood a little what the Indians said - but not one of them would venture as they dreaded the Indians molesting them on account of their going from the House dissatisfied -

9th Friday ~ at 8 Am we had found our horses, saddled & loaded them & we got underway, & went SEbS 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ & passed about one mile West of a swampy Lake that runs nearly East & West - three or four miles long & one broad - low land all round it - Then SW 3 and SWbW 3 & put up at 5 Pm - overtook one Tent of those Indians that had left the House 2 Days before us - they had killed One Bull - Land mostly open interspersed with small asp & willows - Also passed a great number of Small Lakes, about four

November $\frac{1}{4}$ mile Diameter each - with most all Beaver houses in them and some of them two in each small Lake - Saw no Buffalo this Day - Fresh breezes at South fine weather; Indians that we overtook & those that accompany us from the House drinking all night, but they are very little troublesome to us - as the Man that has the care of us is the Chief of their whole Tribe - a man about 45 - has been a great warrior in his younger Days, by which he acquired his present superiority. He is now in the want as others are rising up that will soon supplant him, as he has not now that activity that is necessary to constitute a War Chief.

10th Saturday - The great boose they made in drinking last night made their heads rather heavy this morning, so that we did not get underway until 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ & went SWbW 5 and to the

*Meridian altitude of Lower Sun 37. 6. 30
 + 9. 20 Sun of West
 Latitude 53. 36. 52 37. 15. 50 Thermom. 37*

Then SWbW 1, SbE $\frac{1}{2}$ and SWbS 3 and passed a small river about 12 yards wide, little current and shoal, runs apparently ESE, and WNW thru a fine valley & no woods; then SWbS 9 and put up at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ PM, fine level open grass land on the N East side of the Little river, but all to the South West of it lately burnt that we can scarcely find a small spot for the Horses to eat on when we put up, being all burnt except along the edges of small lakes, and all on SW side the little river very uneven ground, all small hills & vallies & less wood than on the NE side, which is only small ash & willows. No other kind of wood to be seen. Fresh breezes from the Southward, hazy warm weather

11th Sunday - At 8 AM got underway, went SWbS 2 and came to the end of the burnt ground which is very uneven at the latter part of yesterday, SWbS 2, WSW 3, more level, SW 4, more open & less wood, SW 3 and came to a pretty large plane, not a single sprig growing in it, passed over it on the South side WbS 4 & put up at 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ PM. At Noon came up with the White Owl, a southern Indian chief and a few more with him, who accompanied us, as he is going to hunt Beaver near the Rocky Mountain. A good number of Bulls in the plain that we crossed before we put up, killed 3 of them & took the best parts of

November them for our Supper – as fresh is far preferable to dry meat, which we have in general lived upon since we left the House – a fine creek of Water, where we put up – The reason we vary our course at times is to keep where it is good walking – & to keep clear of small Lakes & hammocks of small asp & willows – Light breezes at WSW – in the afternoon a Strong Gale – fine weather.

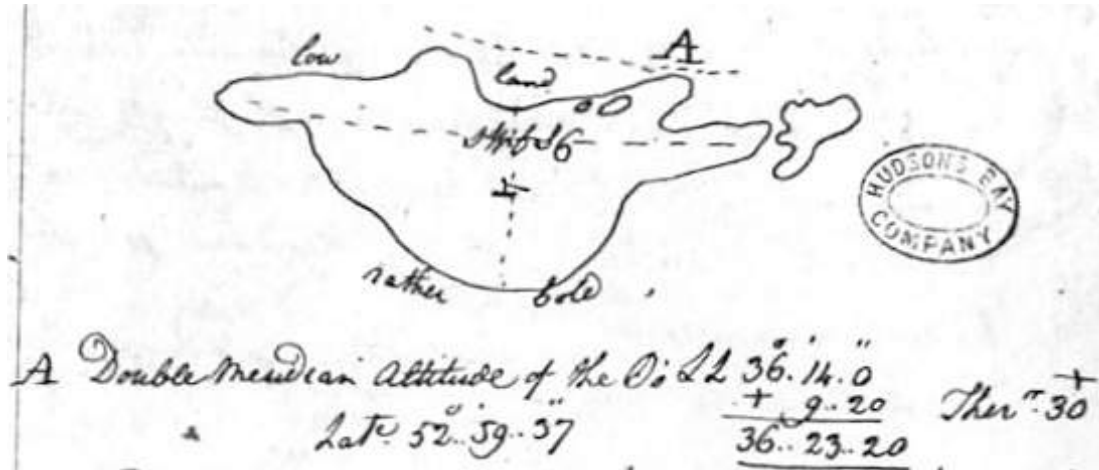
12th Monday The Indians last night on meeting with the White Owl had a little out of their Liquor Kegs, & made themselves a little merry at 8 ½ Am got underway & went WSW 4 – SWbW 14 and put up at 4 ¾ Pm – at an old Blood Indian [Kainai] Pound for Buffalo – Grass all burnt this Day – small scrub asp & Willows – not a single Stone to be seen these Days past – pretty open Land – Light breezes Westerly fine weather ~ The Indians boosed it so last night that we got no sleep –

13th Tuesday at 8 ¾ Am got underway – went SWbS 12 and came to a Lake as under – about 3 Miles long and 2 broad, pretty bold land on the North side of it & low on the South & SW with very little wood but more on the North side,



at Noon met a good number of Sessew Indians [Sarsee or Tsuut'ina] going to the House to Trade, we remained with them about 2 hours, & I gave them each a little bit of Tobacco, which they was much in want of – John Ward strayed away from us and was lost & it was night before he overtook us – he also fell in with the Sessews we had just passed & they ill used him, when alone, and threatened to Take his Horses & every thing of Goods he had – he was obliged to make them some small present of Tobacco before they would let him go away, when they put him into the right road after us Went after passing the Lake SWbS 7 and put up at 6 Pm – all burnt ground this Day & pretty thicketty of small asps & Willows, much more so than usual – Saw a few Bull Buffalo, here & there on small spots unburnt, but did not kill any of them – Fresh breezes at SE, hazy obscure weather –

14th Wednesday ~ At 8 ¾ Am got underway, went SWbS 6 miles & came to a Lake and went along it SWbS 3 as on the other side ~

Nov^{br} 14th

pretty bold land on the N side of the Lake with several hammocks of small asp – Some Ice driving in the Lake – & several Swans, Ducks, & Geese in it – not yet having gone to the Southward ~ Then went SWbS 4 miles & came to the Battle or Fighting River, which is only about 20 Yards wide & very little water in it, which runs in a very serpentine course thro a vally SE & NW – & Falls into the Saskatchewan river after receiving several small streams about 40 miles below Manchester House ~ pretty steep banks upon both sides of the River with small willows – a few pines in the Valley about one mile higher up than where we crossed it – which is the only pines we have seen since we left Buckingham House – Then we went after crossing the river SW 5 miles & put up at 4 Pm – we make every day Long Marches for Indians with Families, – but is on account of their wishing soon to get to where they left their Tents & the best part of all their Families – which is near the Red Deers river ~ Saw a Good number of Bull Buffalo, this Day upon small places that has not been burnt, Killed 3 of them – no Cows we have yet seen since we left the house which is principally owing to the Grass having been lately burnt the Grass nearly all burnt all along this Day except near the Lake – Passed several Small Lakes Yesterday and this Day, the generality of which have 1, two and some 3 Beaver houses in each ~ The Grass yet burning in several places in sight – Light breezes at West, clear & rather cold.

15th Thursday ~ At 8 Am, we got underway & went SWbW 4 miles & again came to the end of the Burnt Ground – Then SSW $6\frac{1}{2}$ across a low piece of flatt meadow Land, with very little wood of any kind in it – Then SW 10 miles which is pretty thicketty in several places of the usual wood here, small asp & Willows – put up at $3\frac{3}{4}$ Pm ~

November Last Night two men went ahead of us to the Tents as they were very anxious to see their families they had left behind ~ This Day some from the Tents met us, & gave us the News that the Snake [Shoshone] & Cottona haw [Kootenay] Inds had sent proper people to make peace with the Muddy river [Peigan] Indians & that with the approbation of the Chief they would go & join those Inds – the greater number along with the Chief was well pleased that peace betwixt them & the above Indians was to follow, but a few appeared much dissatisfied at it ~ & expressed a wish that those that had come with that commission might have their heads cut off – as they said that their only view in coming to make a pretended peace, which they never meant to adhere to, but was only come as spys to see the Country & to lead the Snake Indians more direct to where the Muddy river Inds Generally lives but this discourse was paid little attention too – Light breezes & variable, hazy sharp weather.

16th Friday ~ at 7 am got underway, which is earlier than usual as the Indians wish to see their families they left behind ~ & those at the Tents seem quite impatient for their Countrymen to come up with the little Liquor they have remaining that they may enjoy themselves – Went SSW 4 mile & crossed a small river or creek running nearly SE & falls into the Red Deers river I suppose — SW 8 Mile & arrived at 17 Tents of Indians at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ – 14 of which are Muddy river Indians & the other 3 Tents are Southern Indians ~ The road we passed in the Morning rather thicketty of small asp & Willows, – the latter part more Open – Several Hammocks of Pines Yesterday in the afternoon to the Right hand & this Day dispersed here & there ~ The Indians was very glad that we were come up, & they waited but Little before the Liquor Kegs was opened, & the principal part of the Oldermen got drunk – but the Liquor was much reduced since we left the House, by drinking it upon the Road ~ The Chiefs Tent we remain in contains 30 Buffalo Skins & is very large they keep constantly 2 fires in it — some of the other Indians do the same, altho their tents are not near so large – but they are all much larger than Southern Indian ones – They constantly have Their Tent poles with them – which use of pine & nicely smooth – as all thro this open country no poles are to be had for that purpose ~

November and very seldom as much firewood as will be sufficient to even kindle a fire with – Light breezes at SE with small Snow from 2 Pm till Night ~

17th Saturday With last nights boose of Drinking, the Indians did not move this Day – as they found themselves indisposed after their debauch – John Ward Traded 30 Skins in Wolves & Foxes principally from the Indians, for Tobacco, Knives &c which goods are his own property, & belonging to some of our Men at Buckingham house, who have supplied them with a part to dispose of for them which they allow half for his Trouble in Trading & carrying the Skins – Fresh breezes at West – overcast cold weather –

18th Sunday ~ at 10 am we got every thing ready & all Pitched away for the Red Deers river went S 4 miles & got

*6 miles & got to Red Deer 026 35-24-30
Lat. 52-26-54 - - - 35-32-30 24*

Then went SSE 4 miles & put up within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the Red Deers river at 2 Pm – several small hammocks of Pine & asp to the Westward of us towards the rocky Mountain & low flatt land to the Eastward of us & no wood – within a pretty sizable hill runs directly to the red Deers river about 2 Miles from hence – These Indians we are with have a great number of horses with which they haul their Tent poles, Provisions & all their necessaries – the children generally ride on sledges made of two long poles & tied together near one end & the other spreads about 6 feet wide & slides along the ground – This is the only kind of Sledge all these Barren ground Indians have – their dogs sledges are just the Same only of a smaller size – great numbers of which they have – The Men in general ride – as it would be debasing themselves to walk the Women Seldom or ever ride, when they Pitch along – Killed 2 Bulls – very few of them are to be seen & not a Single Cow – Light Airs, pretty clear & warm – Snow fell Yesterday 3/10 of an Inch – which is the only Snow on the Ground here – The Climate in these parts are considerably warmer than in the vicinity of the Saskatchewan, – the Snow was nearly 6 Inches deep there before we left the House some Days, the river was driving full of Ice, and All the Swans, Geese & Ducks had all flown to the Southward – some few of which we daily see on their passage to the South.

32

Dalt. Os 21

Dalt. Os 12

Dalt. Os 12

good sight

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2..	9..	20		24..40..35

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2..	17..	0	-	25..20..30
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	18..	50	-	" 3..30
2..	17..	53		25..12..25
-	5..	56		+ 8..10
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2..	31..	10	-	73..11..0
	32..	5	-	" 11..15
	33..	0	-	" 11..45
	33..	25	-	" 12..0
	34..	0	-	" 12..30
	34..	50	-	" 12..45
2..	33..	15		73..11..52
-	5..	52		+ 8..10
2..	27..	21		73..20..2

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Mean of all 4 - 113. 9. 4 W. from 4 corners.

Did not move, waiting the arrival of the White Owl, & Family - he came in the afternoon- & left Supanooch & one tent behind - to hunt Beaver there about - light breezes at NW, fine weather - Some Men on hunting & killed a few Cows, the First we have yet killed this Journey ~

November 20th Tuesday ~ at 11 am got underway went SE $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile & crossed the Red Deers River – Steep banks on both sides particularly on the NW side, principally composed of a blue & white Marl – the river is about 80 Yards wide – but now the water is low, the water does not cover more than about 30 or 40 Yards – pretty good current but shoal here – a small rapid about $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile above where we crossed it – This river runs in short crooked reaches of $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{1}{3}$ mile each & upon the Main course runs nearly ESE & WNW as I could determine – a stony shore where we crossed & only 2 feet deep – Went up the Bank on SW Side – S $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile & came to the Top of the Bank, SW $1\frac{1}{2}$, very thicketty of small wood nearly all the way from the river – here I first got sight of the Rocky Mountain – which appeared awfully Grand stretching from SW to WbS P[er] Compass – very much similar to dark rain like clouds rising up above the Horizon in a fine Summers evening – it does not appear of a regular height in all places, but appears like 5 hills, being the highest parts – on account of the distance, the other parts that connects the whole are not visible here – the most conspicuous part bears SW – Went SSW 5 miles & put up at 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ Pm – pretty open & several hammocks of pretty good pine — all to the West ward of us is a woody country, all the Way to the rocky Mountain particularly more woody the nearer to that place – but to the Eastward of us the woods extend but a short distance, & then nothing else but one entire plane for several hundreds of Miles to the South Eastward — except along the banks of rivers or Creeks that intersect in that direction some few Poplars – & a chance solitary Pine is to be found. Fresh breezes at SE pretty clear – Saw great numbers of red Deer & Killed one of them – This is a very suitable country hereabout for them; being fine grass land interspersed with hummocks of Small Poplar or Asp –

21st Wednesday ~ at 10 Am got underway, went S $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles & put up at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Am – Found 22 Tents of Muddy river Indians here that had been here many days waiting their Countrymens return from the House – Passed this Day betwixt 2 Hills covered with wood, particularly the one to the Westward which runs SSW I extend a long way; went within 3 miles of the Eastern one & 5 from the Western – the Eastern one extends only about 4 or 5 Miles farther – Light Airs from the Northw^d, clear fine warm weather

November Several good Hammocks of Pine & Poplar all around us. – The Indians we now came up to being very much in want of Tobacco, & other small Articles, would give me no rest until I traded a little with them – Traded 32 MB altho what small articles I have with me, was intended for presents & for paying the Indians for our Living with them in the Winter & towards spring if any thing remained I intended then to Trade with them before we went for the House – I also sold my Gun, the Indians borrowing it every Day, to kill Buffalo with upon horseback and run great risks in falling & breaking it – which induced me to sell it – as it was of no use to me, while they had it – & I could not refuse lending it to them with any propriety. had I done it they would probably have used our Horses riding after the Buffalo.

22nd Thursday – Fresh breezes from the Westward, forepart Cloudy, latter part Clear warm weather – all the Snow melted away – in the Evening arrived 3 of their Countrymen from Spitcheyee a good distance beyond the Bad river [Bow River] – they say that several of them are pitching this way – also some Cotan a few Indians [Kootenay], whom they have made peace with this Summer –

23rd Friday ~ Light breezes from the Westward, snowed gently last night & this afternoon – evening pretty moderate – Snow fell 2 1/10 Inches –

24th Saturday ~ Light breezes from the NE, cloudy & overcast with a little Snow at night – a few Young men arrived of this Nation from their Tents to the Westward of us. –

25th Sunday ~ Light breezes & variable Morning overcast, afternoon Clear & pretty sharp ~ The Indians running Buffalo on horseback – they killed 9 Bulls – but saw no Cows. We are to Pitch tomorrow –

26th Monday – at 2 ½ Pm – we resumed our Journey Went S 4 ½ miles & put up at 4 ½ Pm – by ourselves, the others went a head, besides 10 Tents that we left behind ~ here I had a more perfect view of the Rocky Mountain than before, it appears very high SWbS & SWbW, but more particularly so the latter – Very little wood this Pitching & that but small the Hills continues as mentioned the 21st Inst ~ Light breezes from the South overcast, gloomy weather & pretty sharp. –

November 27th Tuesday _ at 9 ½ Am resumed our Journey, went SbW 5 miles & came to where those had slept last night that went ahead – they had all moved before we came up – Then went S 4 miles & put up at 1 ½ Pm all in company together ~ the first course several hammocks of asp & Willows – The last Course across a low fine piece of Land, with very little wood, crossed over a Creek with excellent water about ¾ of a mile before we put up. a very strong thicket of Willows &c at the Creek; The Mountain appears very rugged & high SWbS & SWbW in particular ~ where we put up a Small Lake with 2 Beaver houses in it. Several of the Indian Men at work at it & Killed 4 Beaver – These Indians are very little acquainted with Killing Beaver in their houses – what few they have to Trade are generally shot by them when the rivers are open Spring, Fall & Summer – several of them are so full of superstition as even not to touch one; and a great many of them will neither eat of them or suffer one to be brought into their Tents. Some of the Young Men Killed 3 Bulls – no cows to be seen – Light breezes at SW, clear pleasant weather.

28th Wednesday

*4- Det. Alt. 011 32.13.0
+ D. 10
Det. 52. 2.57 32. 21.10 Thermometer 19*

Fresh breezes at NW. pretty Clear & rather cold; which detained the Inds from Moving ~

29th Thursday – at ¼ of an hour after 12 we resumed our Journey, went SE 4 miles along a fine low valley with very little wood; pretty thicketty of Small asp & Willows to the Westward of us, which necessitated us to keep more Easterly than our true course — SbW 2 & put up at 2 ¾ Pm at a small Lake, at the edge of a very large Plain, to the Southward – Men on hunting Yesterday & This Day, but had slender success – John Ward Traded a very good Young Horse from the Indians, he has now 3 Light breezes at NW, overcast and pretty warm — A remarkable high Cliff of the Rocky Mountain called by our People the Devils head & by the Muddy river Indians O mock cow wat che mooks as sis or the Swan's bill, bears from here S 35° W a very high place but appears more so as the other parts all round near it are much lower – There are several places higher than this in other parts of the mountain to be seen but on account of all the adjacent parts being lower makes the Devils Head the more conspicuous & remarkable

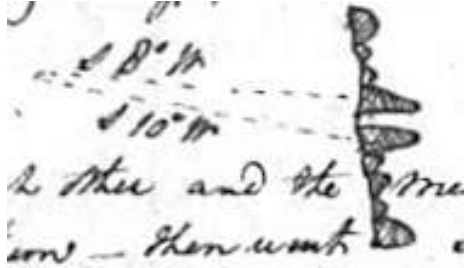
November 30th Friday ~ At 11 $\frac{1}{3}$ Am we reasumed our Journey, went SbE 8 Miles and put up at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm went along the North side of the Plain & put up at a small hammock of Poplars or Point of wood, in the Plain – there is no more woods the way we are going until we come to the Bad River which is more than 100 Miles off – ESE from here about 12 or 15 Miles at the Point of woods there is a single very large Pine; called Na tuck kis we crossed a small creek running SEbS a Buffalo Pound formerly here near where we put up ~ The hills mentioned the 20th Ins^t. the Eastern one nothing to be seen off it but the Western one still stretches along more Westerly and a great way off. before we move from this Place we are to collect small dry wood to haul along with us to kindle the fire with Light breezes at SSE, hazy & pretty mild ~ a Deep low valley, where the Creek runs thro'

December 1st Saturday ~ A smart thaw all last Night & continues all this Day, which has intirely melted all the Snow ~ Men on hunting in the Plain & killed several Bulls, they also wounded one & drove home, & he ran all thro the Tents, before they could kill him, luckily no person got hurt – Fresh breezes at SW clear & Cloudy alternate.

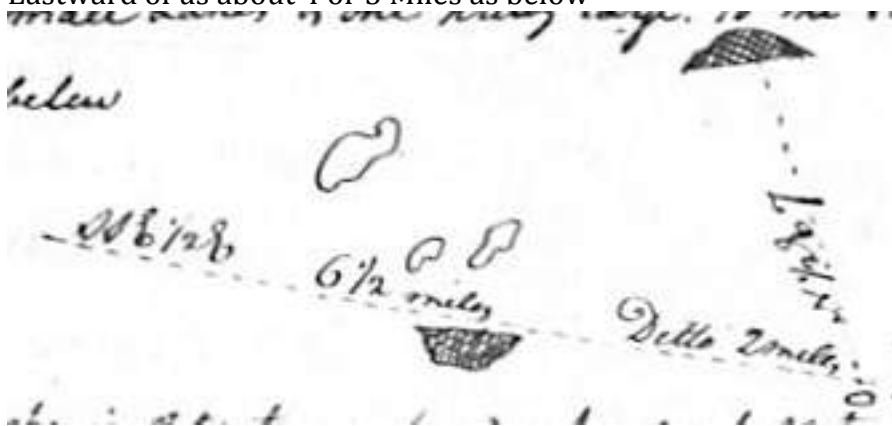
2nd Sunday ~ Snow fell in the Night 1 $\frac{1}{10}$ Inch a heavy gale sprung up at Day break which continued all Day at NW, clear & rather cold Snow drifting that fell last Night – on account of the badness of the weather to cross the Plain, we did not move.

3rd Monday ~ Last Evening the Wind veerd to NW & continued to blow very hard all Night, & till noon this Day, when it became more moderate & at $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm we reasumed our Journey across the Plain – which well fine weather favouring us will take us up many Days, without the agreeable satisfaction of seeing a single small shrub – went SEbS 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles & put up at 3 Pm at a Creek of excellent water, very steep banks a few willows in the bottom of the Creek – before we got underway, almost every horse & Dog had a small bundle of dry wood each, to carry, for firing across the Plain – Burnt Dry Buffalo dung along with a little of the dry wood we are hauling with us – Devils head bore S 48° W and is nearly 30 Miles off.

December 4th Tuesday ~ At 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ am we got underway, in the Plain, wishing to lose no favourable opportunity until we get across it – went SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles – & took the following bearing of some remarkable high places on the Rocky Mountain



S 8° W S 10° W They are two high cliffs apparently pretty near each other and the Mountain is considerably lower upon both sides of them – then went SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles and came to a small hill in the Plain, which we left to the westward of us about $\frac{1}{8}$ of a mile – 2 small Lakes & one pretty large to the Eastward of us about 4 or 5 Miles as below



SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles Ditto 2 miles N $\frac{1}{2}$ E 7

put up at 3 PM at an excellent spring of water ~ Woods at a great distance is to be seen which the Indians call the upper end of the upper Beaver hills, which bears NWbW ~ Burnt Buffalo dung – on account of the thick day could not see any thing of the Mountain in the Afternoon – Grass burnt in several places in the Plain – Fresh breezes at NW fresh Gales with a little Snow Overcast & but not cold ~ Water being such a very necessary article we are obliged to encamp at Particular Places, some Days journeys are long & some short entirely owing to the Places where water is to be had – both for ourselves & the Horses –

5th Wednesday At 9 am we resumed our Journey, & went SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 5 Miles & crossed a creek a little above, a high steep face of rock, on the East Bank of the Creek, which the Indians uses occasionally as the purpose of a Buffalo Pound, by driving whole herds before them & breaking their legs necks &c in the fall – which is perpendicular about 40 Feet – vast quantities of Bones was laying there. That had been drove before the rock. This kind of Places in the Plains are very useful for the Indians where no wood is to be had to make one of. Dry Buffalo dung is piled up about knee high & about the distance of 30 yards from each other & at the rock the 2 sides are not more than 20 yards asunder, but they spread gradually wider all the way from the rock that at the other end the piles of Dry Buffalo dung will be 1 or 2 miles wide. The Med drives the Buffalo within this kind of fence all the way to the rock & by the great way the Buffalo makes they are at the very brink of the precipice

December before they are aware of the Danger – & some men ly down flat on the ground near the Dead men & rise up as the Buffalo passes them & follows them with all speed, to keep them constantly on the run – was not that the case, the Buffalo by going along easily would perceive the danger & avoid it by turning upon one side or the other – all thro' these extensive Plains, several of these steep perpendicular Rocks are to be seen, which the Indians never fail to make Proper use of for killing the Buffalo – they seem to have been designed by Nature for that purpose where no woods are to be seen. The direction of the creek is SE & NW – then went SbW 2 & put up at Noon – at a fine spring of water in a low bottom – Burnt Buffalo dung as usual – The Devils Head bears from here S 67° W – I was not able to discern the two cliffs mentioned yesterday as the Mountain to the Southward was covered with a very thick fogg – Light breezes at West, cloudy weather with a gentle thaw ~ Men on hunting & killed a few Bulls – no Cows to be seen

6th Thursday ~ at 9 am we again got every thing packed up – sledges Loaded & reasumed our Journey – went SSE ½ S 5 Miles – Saw those two high Cliffs mentioned on the 4th Ins^t & they bore S 18° W & S 28° W respectively – A small creek here went up along it ESE 5 Miles & put up at 1 Pm Found no water here, snow drifted in heaps we melted for water for our own use – Steep rocks here in 1 Place in the Creek where they drive Buffalo before as mentioned the 5th Ins^t but not quite so high & steep – The Men killed a Few Bulls – great quantities of Buffalo far out in the Plain, SE from us – the Indians speak of running them tomorrow – Burnt Cow dung as usual – The fire is first made of small dry wood then afterwards the dry Dung – a small stick or 2 is kept constantly in the middle of the fire, Perpendicular & bits of Inside fat are placed upon it that it melts & falls down gradually into the fire & makes the Buffalo Dung burn much better than without this – This kind of fuel makes a great quantity of Ashes – when the Dung is dry it does tolerably well – at present it is rather wet – on account of the fresh Snow thawing & wetting it – it takes a long time for the Air to dry it well again, Particularly at this Season of the year – Light breezes at West mostly clear & very warm summer like weather -

December 7th Friday ~ A hill bears from here the left hand end bears N 3° E & the Right hand End N 7° E – about 25 Miles off – therefore the length of the Hill from the above Data is about 2 ¼ Miles long. – Also another hill across the Bad River called by these Indians. E nooks es sã que [Nose Hill (Mohksisíksátóhkotsy)] bears S 20° E about 25 or 30 Miles off – At 9 am we resumed our Journey across the Western end of the Large Plain as before – & went SEbE 11 Miles & put up – at 1 Pm – Men running Buffalo & killed upwards of 20 fatt Cows – Set by Compass (as all the Courses is by the Magnetic & not the true) a remarkable high Cliff at the Rocky Mountain very much resembling a Pyramid – from which very near resemblance I shall call it by that name – it bore S 47° W – No water this Day – stopd to melt Snow, little quantities found in the hollows in the shade, not melted by the hot weather – Light Airs from the Westward clear & hot – at 2 ½ Pm Thermometer +58° which at this season of the Year is remarkably warm – All the way as yet that we have Passed the Plain very level fine ground – but not a single sprig of wood of any sort what ever to be seen. In the Morning before we moved the Chief went out to the Middle of the Tents & made a long speech of more than an hour Long – the principal purport of which was, for the Men to run the Cow Buffalo this Day, & that they all should neither hurt us or our Horses or Property – hitherto, they have been remarkably civil & kind to us –

8th Saturday ~ Four steep cliffs at the Mountain nearly close together but the Northernmost one the most conspicuous of the 4 – which P[er] Compass bore S 66° W – at 8 ¾ am got every thing ready & got on our Journey & went SbE 8 Miles and put up at 11 ½ am – On an excellent spring of fine water – these springs are of very great service in Passing these extensive Plains – where seldom any creek or river is to be seen – and it is very surprising how straight the Indians go to them altho there is no woods to direct their way – That Northern Cliff in the Morning now Bears S 77° W – The Pyramid S 54° W – and the Devils Head bore N 89° W Men running Buffalo & killed nearly 20 – but the Buffalo is not near so plentiful here as they have been these 2 Days Past – Light breezes at SW clear weather – we are now approaching fast to the Bad River.

December 8th

December 8th D. h. alt. 0 L L. 31. 39. 15
 alt. 51. 0. 37 + 2. 10
 31. 47. 25 Thermometer 37.
 alt the Watch 10' forward -

D. h. alt. 0 L L.		D. h. alt. 0 L L.	
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2. 16. 1. 17	11. 20 - 5. 45	25. 0 - 59. 30	2. 15. 45. 22
9. 15. 40. 15	12. 15 - 5. 30	26. 0 - 59. 0	9. 15. 35. 30
2. 15. 50. 15	13. 0 - 5. 15	26. 45 - 58. 45	2. 15. 47. 10
11. 56. 47	13. 45 - 4. 30	27. 45 - 58. 15	11. 56. 47
7. 15. 29	14. 35 - 3. 45	28. 40 - 58. 0	7. 15. 29
0. 16. 10	15. 20 - 3. 15	29. 40 - 57. 30	0. 16. 10
+ 10. 11. 40. 8	16. 25 - 2. 30	30. 35 - 57. 0	+ 10. 11. 40. 8
66. 32. 34	17. 25 - 2. 15	31. 35 - 56. 15	66. 25. 59
	18. 0 - 2. 0	32. 40 - 55. 45	
	19. 12 - 66. 45. 7	33. 40 - 55. 15	
	20. 15 - 66. 12. 17	34. 40 - 54. 45	
	21. 27 - 66. 12. 17	35. 40 - 54. 15	
		36. 40 - 53. 45	
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		128. 40 - 7. 45	
		129. 40 - 7. 15	
		130. 40 - 6. 45	
		131. 40 - 6. 15	
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		134. 40 - 4. 45	
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		136. 40 - 3. 45	
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		138. 40 - 2. 45	
		139. 40 - 2. 15	
		140. 40 - 1. 45	
		141. 40 - 1. 15	
		142. 40 - 0. 45	
		143. 40 - 0. 15	
		144. 40 - 0. 45	
		145. 40 - 0. 15	
		146. 40 - 0. 45	
		147. 40 - 0. 15	
		148. 40 - 0. 45	
		149. 40 - 0. 15	
		150. 40 - 0. 45	

Long. 113. 25
 Mean Long 113. 19. 35

9th Sunday ~ at 10 am resumed our Journey across the Plain went SWbS 1 mile - here we first saw the woods beyond the Bad River - which appeared from S to WNW - then went SWbS 5 Miles & put up at half an hour past 12 - very level ground - Light airs from the Westward Clear & warm

10th Monday ~ At 9 ½ am we again got underway, went SSW 7 Miles and arrived upon the Banks of the Bad River - by the Southern Indians called As kow seepee - & by the Muddy river Indians Na ma kay sis sa ta or the Bow hills river - these Hills run in a Parallel direction with the Rocky Mountain from their Northern termination near the Devils Head & their South end - terminates at the banks of this river - they are high & run in 4 Parallels with the Mountain, they are covered with Pine & Fir & very deep vallies between each Parallel ridge - a chance solitary Yew Tree is to be found there - the only Place in these Parts it is to be found but beyond the Mountain this wood is frequently met with also very large Cedar - Very steep banks along the Bad river - went down the bank which is difficult on account of its steepness - then up along the side of the river West 1 mile & put up at ½ past 12 - in a pretty large Hammock of large Old Poplars - where we found firewood - that we hauled along with us in the Plain being all used a day or 2 ago - Wind SW light breezes

December overcast weather, with a little Snow in the Afternoon – This river apparently runs E & West nearly – & falls out of the Stony Mountains a little to the South of the Pyramid frequently mentioned before – it is about 100 Yards wide from bank to bank but now the Water does not cover more than 40 Yards A number of rapids near here, the water on them at Present is about 24 Inch but betwixt the rapids still deep water – at present little or no Ice in it being quite open – what a difference betwixt this river & the Saskatchewan which was very full of Ice when we left Buckingham House – more than one Month ago – & here scarce any to be seen – mostly all the way along the river to the Mountain is woody – the nearer the Mountain the more so the Pines there are plentiful – a little way from the Eastern edge of the Mountain within this river forms a kind of small Lake – with 2 or 3 pine Islands in it – very thick wood country all along near the Mountain particularly Pine & Fir & very hilly land. –

11th Tuesday ~

ay ~ D. N. alt. 31. 29. 30
 Lat. 50. 50. 41 + D. 10
 31. 37. 40 *Thur. 29*

Snow fell last Night 1 7/10 Inches – Light airs from the West, clear weather Several of these Peoples countrymen came here from their Tents at the Spitcheyee about 18 Miles off – we are to go to join them – This Morning an Indian brought an Old Horse – altho strong & sound & tyed to our Tent Door & gave me as a present as he said, which I kindly thanked him for as such – but expressed a hint that could not be mistaken that he wanted several articles of Goods from me – altho I had no immediate service for him – by the persuasion of our Chief I was induced to give him – 1 fathom of Brazile Tobacco, a 2 Gallon Kettle, 1 Bayonet – Powder ½ lb, Shott 2 ½ lb, ½ of an Ounce of Vermillion, 1 Gun Worm & 2 flints – such was the Price of that generous Indians Present.

12th Wednesday ~ at 9 ½ Am, all hands began to cross the Bad river at one of the rapids – which was about 2 feet deep – with small round stones & a very strong current. All rode across it men, women & children, the latter on sledges. Two old Women when near the middle of the river, by their horses sliding on the round stones, threw them into the water, but some of the men soon dragged them out again. As we all crossed at one place which would scarcely admit 2 horses abreast at a time it was ½ past 12

December before every one of us had crossed owing to the above cause, & the great number of us – went up the bank on the South Side the river which was not so steep as on the other side – Then went SSE 4 ½ Miles & put up at 2 Pm – near an old Buffalo Pound – at a small hammock of asp Willows, not a single stick to be seen to the Eastward of us & none near to the Westward except pretty nigh the Mountain – Light Airs from the Westward, clear fine weather – The nearer we approach the Mountain, the more Snow, than farther from it – by attracting the vapours that drive about – – The Eastmost end of pretty large hill – bears SSE ½ E about 20 Miles off – – As we was moving along – riding a Muddy river Indian met us & stopped our horses, & would not allow us to proceed any farther either me or John Ward – he said a great deal to us, very little of which we understood, but at last we found out that a Snake Indian Man was near – & that he wished us to strip all our old clothing off & put our very best on & that we might cut a more respectable appearance to the Snake Indian – who he said that, he would shortly introduce us to – it being cold & quite in the Middle of the Plain we seemed averse to strip – but he would not let us stir till we had thrown off our old & put on our new Jackets, Shirts, washed & combed ourselves - this we found afterwards was the Chief that had sent him to us with the above commission – after we had made ourselves as smart as our clothes would admit, he suffered us to proceed, & in ¾ of an hour we came up to all the Men formed into a large ring & the Snake Indian in the Middle all smoaking together in friendship – when we approached they all got up & invited us to sit down amongst them – & at this time our Indians shewed us by far most civility & attention we ever experienced from them the whole Year – The Snake Ind: viewed us from head to foot & from foot to head – with the greatest attention felt at our Skin in places & expressed great astonishment at us particularly at our having a different coloured hair from any Indian – I was desired to fill a pipe & smoke with him & as the day happened to be clear – I lighted it with a Burning Glass that was fixed in the top of my Tobacco

Decembr - box - he eyed me all the time with the most circumspect attention but when he saw the Pipe Smoke - by means of the Glass - he jumped up & wished to be farther from me - as he thought I was something more than common, to light a Pipe without fire - & the Indians we was with took good care not to let this good opportunity slip, to extol us in a very high manner to him - & they told the Poor fellow such unaccountable stories relating to our conjurations that was very rediculous - but by magnifying us in his Eyes - they was at the same time letting him know how well they was off in going to the Fort & Trading every necessary - he accompanied us to the Tents - & the Indians made him several small Presents - of different small Articles, but the Tobacco he got from them seemed to fix his fancy more than every thing else put together - they was very sparing of that necessary article, they are so fond of themselves - only giving him 3 or 4 Inches each - but the great number that gave him - the little each made him the richest man in all our Company - all their War Clothing - and every curiosity they had & he was induced to sing a Song so that with his & their singing we got no rest the whole night - our Chief after they had shewd him every Particular they had, expressed a Particular wish that I should open my box that I kept my Sextant &c in - to shew him - which I could do no less as they had done every thing in their power to gratify his curiosity - as I took them out one by one, they explained the particular use of each - with many extravagant ideas of their uses & properties - during the exhibition of my things in turn he took good care to keep at a proper distance from me - moving a distance off when I began to finger my box. We was the first Europeans he had ever seen before - several times since I have reflected that Our Indians did right in wishing us to appear in our Sundays clothes before the Stranger: to impress a proper opinion of our surprizing qualifications, as Our Indians was pleased to term it - & when they told we made every thing - & could foretel future events with never failing truth - This Man with 3 others

Decembr - who are remaining at Spitcheyee in our Indians Countrymens Tents – they are come with Presents from the Greatmen of the Snake Indian tribe to these Indians – & to consolidate a lasting Peace betwixt the two nations which was concluded in June last, but the proper ceremonies & Presents at that time not having been made – they also wish that some of their Indians would accompany them to their country – who they say shall return with several fine horses equipped for war – & loaded with other Presents – Our Chief says that he will give directions very soon for some to accompany them back – to see whether or no it is true that this Man advances – This is a man about 25 Years of age – well made & very neat & clean – & His clothing nearly resembles our Indians – the only peculiarity was his hair which dragged on the ground when he walked – but our Indians say that it is chiefly Buffalo hair woven with his own – it is plaited in 6 thongs nearly a finger thick each – His Stocking is above a foot longer than his leg & thigh & the surplus is rolled up in a lump above his shoe – these are the only 2 Particulars that I observed from our Indians – There is a Flat head Boy of a diff't Tribe at the Tents – whom they caught stealing horses here, & brought back to their Tents at Spitcheyee & keep confined – several of our Inds: wishes him to be killed – but our Chief says no, & that he shall be sent safely away to his own country, with only a severe reprimand & that if ever he is caught again doing the same action, he may hope not to live – This is very gentle & humane usage for an Indian – as seldom a crime of this kind escapes so easily amongst them – We shall fine weather admitting be there at Spitcheyee in 2 Days more – when we shall see the Flatt head boy & 3 other Snake Inds.

13th Thursday ~ at 10 ½ Am reasumed our Journey, went SSE ½ E 4 ½ miles & put up at noon at the side of Ee too ki up river [Sheep river] about 15 yards wide, very little water in it – it runs NE & falls into the Bad river are short distance from here – Good large Old poplars at the rivers side – light airs from the West, overcast & rather cold – No woods to be seen to the Eastw^d & only small hammocks towards the Mountain. The Snake Indian & one of our men his Guide returned to Spitcheyee – we shall be there tomorrow – This night I hope to have a good sleep – to make up the leeway for last nights exhibition.

Decembr 14th Friday – The Pyramid now bears S77°W – at 8 ³/₄ Am resumed our Journey for the Spitcheyee – went SbE 7 miles & crossed a small Creek that falls into the Spitcheyee river – then SbE 1 mile & arrived at the Spitcheyee river [Highwood river] at Noon – & found nearly 150 Tents of Muddy river Indians that had been here, many Days – when near the Enemies Country, they are always found in large bands – that they may be the more able to resist any enemies that may dare to attack them – which is generally either the Snake, Flatt heads or Crow Mountain Indians – This River from 25 to 30 Yards wide – pretty good current – very clear water, but several small rapids or Shoals in it – This falls from the rocky mountain & empties itself into the Bad river – it runs nearly NEbN to that river – No woods to the East ward – & very little to the westward only here, 2 Good hammocks of pretty large Poplars – one here & the other about 3 miles to the Eastward down the river – called by these Indians Oo cose Spitcheyee – signifying a small hammock of Poplars – the hammock that we now encamp at is about 4 miles long close along the Banks of the river – The Pyramid now bears S 88°W – Light Airs from the SW: clear fine weather – River quite clear of Ice here – Saw a few Buffalo far out in the Plain to the Eastward –

15th Saturday – Light Airs from the Northward clear fine weather..

16th Sunday –

Day ~ 2nd alt 31. 29. 45
 Lat. 50. 34. 30 + 01. 10 Thermometer 32
 31. 37. 55

These 2 Days past Traded several Skins from the Indians – as they had little Tobacco – and they kept continually troubling me to Trade with them for that article – All the Tents moved but 27, to two different Pounds – to the Southward to rocky Precipices as there is no wood to make another sort of Pound of – The 4 Snake Indians got many Presents, & returned back to their own Country, accompanied by several of our Young Indian Men They say that they shall sleep 10 nights before they arrive there which I understand is from 250 to 300 Miles a true SbE course – The Flatt head boy, that was caught stealing horses – also got his safe acquittance to his own country – he is only about 16 Years Old – very young for such an hazardous attempt – Several of these Indians, the Southern Indian Chief in particular wished very much to kill all the 4 Snake Inds & the Flathead boy – but after a long debate, the Majority of Voices – prevailed in their favour – I also spoke strongly in favour of their safe return

December 17th Monday – Yesterday fresh breezes at WSW – in the afternoon a heavy gale, clear fine weather with a gentle Thaw – no snow left now on the Ground – The Gale still continues at SW^t cloudy weather, cold – at 11 am we got underway – Went WSW 2 ½ Miles, up along the Spitcheyee River & put up at 12 ½ – The country being quite destitute of wood, - & the strong gale of wind obliged us to make a short pitching – I traded Poles for a Sledge, as the Skins I have been obliged to Trade are too many to carry conveniently upon Horse back – which I have hitherto done till this Day – a few men came to us from one of the Parties that Pitched Yestd^y they have already got 2 large herds of Buffalo, drove before the Steep rocks they brought us a little meat about 8 or 10 Buffalo which in this part is not thought so much of as a Goose at Hudsons Bay –

18th Tuesday – a cliff upon the Mountain bears S44°W – at 9 ¾ am we got underway – went SbW 5 miles – & took the magnetical bearing of an other cliff at the Mountain which is S63°W – Then went SbW 3 – Miles, when the former place bore S52°W & the latter S67°W – Put up at 1 Pm – Obligated to haul firewood along with us this day – as we left the Spitcheyee river to the Northward – The Indian Men generally goes first pitching along – The Women, Children Horses & Dogs – all loaded more or less – & by the time we think the Women have put up the Tent, fire made &c – we contrive to arrive at that time & not before – in going along this day – we saw a small herd of Buffalo running very hard & 2 Men on horse back galloping after them which in an Instant we lost sight of the Buffalo; and as there was a few inequalities tho small in the ground we constantly imagined that we should every moment see them run over some small eminence or other & as when we saw them at first before they disappeared, they was at no great distance & running in a direct line towards us – we both prepared to meet them & have a shot – not seeing any thing of them after staying a little time we proceeded forward & found that the Inds had drove them before a perpendicular rock 29 of which was killed onn the spot & only 3 escaped, but with legs broke – that the Inds soon overtook & killed with arrows – as the Indians are always very anxious never to let a

Decembr ~ single Buffalo escape that has been in a Pound – the reason they assign for this is that should there that escape be at any future time be in the Band of Buffalo, that they might be bringing to the Pound, by their once being caught in the Trap they would evade going into it again – for in general when ever a single one breaks out of the Dead Men – all the rest will follow. Grass all lately burnt the way we have passed this Day towards the Mountain but not to the South of us – but at a good distance in that direction the Grass is now burning very great fury – supposed to be set on fire by the Cotton na how Indians – Every fall & Spring – & even in the winter when there is no Snow – these large Plains either in one Place or other is constantly on fire – & when the Grass happens to be long & the wind high the sight is grand & awful – & it drives along with amazing swiftness – indeed several Inds I have heard being burnt in this manner to death – the fire coming upon them in the Night when asleep – The Flames roars along like the waves in the Ocean in a Storm – The only way they avoid these fires – when aware of it is by immediately setting fire to the Grass they are at – & when a little space is burnt themselves – Horses &c go upon the burnt part & when the fire comes to this Place just burnt it becomes dark in an Instant when this happens in the Night – The Lightning in the Spring & Fall frequently lights the Grass – & in the winter it is done by Indians – Fresh breezes at WNW clear weather, the Gale continued all last Night Burnt Buffalo Dung along with the Little Green wood we hauled along with us.

19th Wednesday – Where we encamped yesterday was at a rocky Precipice in a Kind of Creek – but the rock was not very high – at Noon the Men brought a herd of Buffalo to the rock but they all broke out at the outer End of the Deadmen & only one single one fell over the Precipice, & was Killed – at 3 Pm. The men brought another Large herd, but they all broke out among the Dead Men as before – however the Men Killed several upon horse back by galloping after & shooting them with Arrows – Fresh breezes at SW. till 3 Pm – then a very heavy gale from the same part came on in an instant which continued with unabated fury till 5 ½ Pm – when it rather abated – but continued a smash gale all night – Cloudy weather with a great thaw – The Gale blew over some of our Tents - & them that stood the gale was tied down by lines fixed round the Top of the Tent & fastened by strong pegs into the Ground – Burnt Buffalo Dung as yesterday ~

December 20th Thursday ~ at 9 ½ Am got under way - went S 3 ½ Miles, & put up at 11 ½ Am, in another dry creek, where there is a pretty steep rock - The Men brought 3 or 4 separate herds of Buffalo, towards the Precipice, but they all broke out amongst the Dead Men & got clear off, only 2 Cows fell before the Rock and was killed - However several was killed on Horseback with Arrows - No wood near us, Burnt Buffalo Dung ~ Fresh Gales at SW Clear weather & very warm.

21st Friday ~ The Men brought several herds of Buffalo towards the rock but they all broke out amongst the Dead Men as Yesterday except a small herd of about 30 which they drove down, but happening to fall at a low part of the rock only 7 was killed upon the Spot, the several had their legs broken, but was soon Killed by the Indians on Horseback a few of the 30 escaped unhurt - Light breezes at NW, Cloudy weather Snow fell in the Night 1/10 of an Inch.

22nd Saturday ~

Saturday - D. Malt. O. L. 31.44.15
Lat. 50.23.48 + 0.10
31.52.25 *Thur 26*

Set the Watch forward 9' & also the regulator ¾°.

<p><i>9th 11.20.30</i> <i>aa 11.25.43</i> <i>9th 9.14.50</i> <i>aa 0.25.27</i> <i>10 - 56.34</i> <i>9 - 15.20</i> <i>0 - 16.19</i> <i>+ 27 - 15.7 ½ - 9 ½</i> <i>110.13.13</i></p>	<p><i># 0.0 - 117.44.30</i> <i>1.5 - 45.15</i> <i>2.5 - 45.45</i> <i>3.8 - 46.30</i> <i>4.0 - 47.0</i> <i>5.0 - 47.15</i> <i>5.55 - 47.45</i> <i>6.50 - 48.30</i> <i>7.45 - 48.45</i> <i>8.40 - 49.0</i> <i>2.4.22</i> <i>+ 1.52</i> <i>2.6.19</i></p>	<p><i># 25.50 - 117.56.45</i> <i>26.45 - 57.30</i> <i>+ 27.30 - 57.45</i> <i>28 28.12 - 58.15</i> <i>29.6 - 58.30</i> <i>30.0 - 59.0</i> <i>30.45 - 59.30</i> <i>31.50 - 59.45</i> <i>2.20.45</i> <i>+ 1.52</i> <i>2.30.37</i></p>	<p><i>9th 9.39.0</i> <i>aa 9.44.35</i> <i>9th 13.2.40</i> <i>aa 12.11.56</i> <i>10 - 56.33</i> <i>9 - 15.29</i> <i>0 - 16.19</i> <i>+ 1.53 ½ - 15.55 - 9 ½</i> <i>110.24.14</i></p>
<p><i>Long. 112.58 ¼</i></p>	<p><i>117.47.1</i> <i>+ 0.15</i> <i>117.55.16</i></p>	<p><i>117.58.22</i> <i>+ 0.15</i> <i>118.6.37</i></p>	<p><i>112.30 ¼</i></p>

<p><i>6 Dalt. O. L.</i> <i># 15.0 - 19.53.45</i> <i>15.57 - 43.45</i> <i>16.45 - 35.45</i> <i>2.15.54</i> <i>+ 1.52</i> <i>2.17.46</i></p>	<p><i>19.44.25</i> <i>19.52.40</i></p>	<p><i>6 Dalt. O. L.</i> <i># 17.38 - 20.30.45</i> <i>+ 18.28 - 21.30</i> <i>28 19.12 - 13.45</i> <i>2.18.26</i> <i>20.29.0</i> <i>+ 0.15</i> <i>20.30.15</i></p>	<p><i>3.19.0</i> <i>24.30</i> <i>25.0</i> <i>3.24.50</i> <i>+ 1.50</i> <i>3.23.40</i></p>	<p><i>26 27 ½</i> <i>29</i> <i>27.40</i></p>
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Mean Longitude 112°..44'..15" ~ Variation 17°..45' East - These Lunar observations brings out the Longitude upwards of One Degree less than the true situation of that place - Light Airs from the NE, in the Eveng Calm clear weather - The Indians drove a herd of Buffalo down the Precipice but not one was Killed -

December 23rd Sunday ~ Snow all last Night & till 6 Pm this Day – which fell only 1 ¼ Inch light breezes from the N & pretty sharp – Several of the Young Men took horses & went for Firewood to a small Hammock of Asp about 5 Miles SE of us –

24th Monday ~ Thermometer at 8 am 8 below the Cypher – Light Airs from the SW clear sharp weather-

25th Tuesday ~ At 12 ½ got underway, & went WbS 8 Miles over a fine low flat level meadow land & put up at the Bull Pond River – or Ammix e kis con about 8 or 10 Yards wide – midling water – runs a SE course about 10 Miles, where it falls into the Spitcheyee River – Put up at 4 Pm – John Ward traded another horse from the Indians – The Indians say that they have intentions to build a Pound here for the Buffalo – Men Killed several Cows by running them upon Horseback & shooting them with arrows – They are so expert at this business, that they will ride along side of the Cow they mean to kill & while at full gallop will shoot an arrow into her heart & kill her upon the Spot – sometimes when they happen to miss their proper aim (which is very seldom) they will ride close up to the Buffalo while at full Gallop & draw the Arrow out & again shoot at it – some of the men will shoot the arrow quite thro' a Bull & fall down on the other side – but this is when the Arrow happens to miss the rib bones – Their Arrows in General are shod with pieces of Iron hoop Old Kettles – & old pieces of Iron battered out thin betwixt 2 Stones – The Principal part of what Ammunition these Indians trade are for War – & as a principal article to barter with other Nations they are at peace with for Horses &c – Pretty good Poplars grew here where we put up at the small river – The Rocky Mountain appears about 10 Miles off – crossed a small creek 1 ½ mile before we put up – Clear weather, forepart calm latter part fresh breezes from the SW

26th Wednesday – Fresh breezes from the SW. hazy weather, with a gentle thaw in the afternoon – The men running buffalo towards the Mountain & killed a few – The Mountain appears high – awful & very grand all along – with thick small Pines &c along its base –

27th Thursday ~ A Particular cliff of the Mountain bears S76W. at 10 ½ AM all the Tent moved except 2 who remain to work a Beaver house that is here – went SEbE 4 ½ miles & put up at Noon at the same creek we crossed the 25th Inst but more to the Southward – found 11 Tents here and a

December Buffalo Pound – these 11 Tents had been here 5 Days – & had made a Pound the 3 sides of which was made of wood – being a strong fence about 5 foot high, in a Creek – one side of which was steep, where the Buffalo came in they had got a few into it before we arrived – great numbers of Buffalo near this place – Just after we arrived they brought a small herd of about 50 into it – & Killed every one – The Pound within is about 50 Yards long by 20 wide – The Cliff that bore S76W in the Morning now bears N87°W – Several high ridges of hills betwixt us and the Mountain – pretty high running Parallel with it, well covered with small Pine &c: The Dead Men the Indians have at this pound are made of 4 or 6 pieces of Buffalo Dung each being about knee high – and goes from the pound on both sides about 1 mile or more – several Indians lay flat on the ground at these hills – and as the Buffalo passes them they rise up & follow them running – to keep the Buffalo upon a constant gallop – for should they not be driven on fast they would be aware of the Danger & step from the right road into the pound – When the woods are near the Dead men are made of small bundles of branches – all having a start towards the Pound – Fresh breezes at SW rather hazy, with a gentle thaw The Grass on fire N & NW of us ~

28th Friday ~ At 8 am they brought a herd of Buffalo into the Pound and an hour after they brought another into the Pound before all the first was killed – In the afternoon they brought several more herds – Near the Pound but they al broke out amongst the Dead men, and not a single one they got into the Pound – yesterday a great ceremony of smoking &c was made in our Tent the principal part of all the Old Men assembled; & several speeches was made – The purport of which was that they might have good Luck in getting the Buffalo into the Pound - & that they should run the way the Indian men wished – our Chief is the Pound Master & when ever a herd comes into the Pound he must go & kill the first one when after any body may kill that wishes – he generally shoots his one with a gun – The young men kill the rest with arrows – Bayonets tyed upon the end of a pole - &c - the hatchet is frequently used - & it is shocking to see the poor animals thus pent up without any way of escaping – butchered in

December this shocking manner – some with a stroke of an ax will open nearly the whole side of a Buffalo – & the Poor animal runs some times a considerable while all thro' the Pound with all its entrails dragging on the Ground & trod out by the others – before they dye – so soon the Buffalo gets into the Pound they constantly keep running all round, never lying a moment still, until they are all Killed – when the women goes over the hedge & cuts up the Buffalo & takes the best part – sometimes the Buffalo a fresh herd will come into the Pound while the women are thus employed, which makes them to run headlong over the hedge to escape – sometimes the Indians say that a few are killed by the Buffalo before they can get out of the Pound – The Young Men sleep out all night in General – when they bring the Buffalo to the Pound – & sometimes they will bring whole herds above 40 Miles off & sleep 2 or 3 Nights according as they can drive them in a direct manner or not toward the Pound – The Old Men & Boys attend the Dead men – when the Buffalo is pretty nigh – One or 2 Men alternately keep a const look out to notice when the Young Men have brought a herd near – when the hollow is made & every Old Man & boy immediately runs to the Dead Men – & lays down flatt on the Ground, before the Buffalo is very nigh – that they might see nothing stiring – The Tents are always Pitched in a hollow that the Buffalo cannot see them until they are just on the Point of getting into the Pound – Bringing the Buffalo to the Pound, particularly when at a great distance is a very hard Job for the Young Men, as they are obliged to run so very much to keep the Buffalo in the proper direction for the Pound – There is a deal of art in thus driving them the way they wish – as it is such a Wild Animal – & the sight of a single Person will frighten a whole herd – They will smell a person at an Amazing distance when they are to the leward of him – & if one runs, should there be thousands in the herd, they will all run – but the Buffalo in the Plains will not run half so far when frightened as those that are found amongst the woods – these will sometimes run & gallop several miles before they even stop the least – There in the plains generally stand several shots, particularly if the first shot kills, before they run away. Those in the woods seldom more than 1 shot.

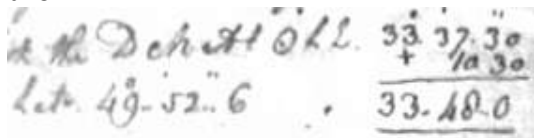
December The Grass on fire which burns very briskly about 5 Miles off – No firewood here – The Women fetch it from a Small hammock about 2 Miles off towards the Mountain – Fresh Gales at West, pretty clear.

29th Saturday – at 11 ½ Am brought a herd of Buffalo, about 50 into the Pound they also brought several more herds, but they all broke out amongst the Dead Men – Grass on fire more Westerly, supposed to be set on fire by some Blood Indians, who is just now returned from stealing 40 horses from the Snake Indians – Yesterday Arrived 1 Tent of Black [Siksika] feet here, they say that they was at Manchester House Trading about the 30th Novr – – Arrived this Day 2 Tents of Muddy river Indians, along with the Old Southern Indian [Cree] Man from a Pound SE from this about 7 Miles – they have drove all the Buffalo away near that Place – This Man has been living with these Indians above 25 Years, & has a large family of Children, who all speak the Muddy river Indian or Pekanow Language – as their Mothers was of this Tribe, he speaks this Language as well as his own Mothers tongue – he is the 2nd man in rank of this Nation & great attention is paid to what he says respecting War – He has been a noted Warrior, by which he acquired his great authority – at present he is hauled about upon a slege – not being able to walk – by an accident that happened to him last Spring – he found a Beaver house in a small Lake – had broke it open & found the vault when the beaver had fled to on breaking open the House – he was shaking up the mouth of this vault when a Beaver ran out into the Lake & bit him by the calf of his leg – where the man stood was knee deep in water – this bite not being properly attended, the warm weather coming on & being an old man – this mortified & carried him of in June 1793 – he was universally beloved by all the Pekanow Tribe - & made himself respected amongst the adjacent friendly nations – In the Evening every horse was brought to the Tents & Tyed all night and a watch keeping & every man having his arms ready – as one of our Indians says that he saw two men upon horseback late in the afternoon - & they suppose it to be either

Decmbr_ Snake or Flat Head Indians, coming to steal horses; – Smart Gales from the West hazy weather ~ **30th Sunday** ~ At 1 ½ Pm, several of our Young Men, arrived here, with 25 Good horses, they have been stealing from the Snake Indians – notwithstanding the Peace that was made betwixt them this Summer – These Men say that a few Tents of Cottonahaw [Kootenay] Indians are at the Naw pew ooch e tay cots river [Oldman] – wishing our Indians to visit them with Goods, to barter for Horses – a peace betwixt these 2 Tribes was also made this Summer – after the Young Men arrived almost every person was making a collection of different useful articles to go to trade Horses from the Cottonahaws – Such as Old Kettles – Hatchets, Awls Beads, Knives – Tobacco &c &c at 4 ½ AM 50 Men well armed with both Guns & Bows & Arrows – set off to trade with the above Indians – I & John Ward accompanied them, on purpose to see these Indians, who has never seen an European before – Our Old Chief also accompanied us – I took also a few articles of Trading Goods to make a Small present to the Cottonahaw Chief – & for Trading any curiosity – I wished to have traded a Horse from them – but our chance for that is very much against us – as the Indians always prefer trading with one another, before they do Europeans – besides we well knew, that our Indians would take them by force as we are above 3 to one – & well armed – That Generally of the Men went on foot expectg. to trade horses to ride back – a few Elderly Men rode as also me & Jno Ward – we went SbW 9 Miles & crossed a small river about 15 Yards wide pretty good current but Shoal – running EbS Nearly – Then SbW 3 Miles – When the Chief, John Ward, & about 20 Men returned back to their Tents – The Chief used every method in his Power, except force, to persuade me to return, as he said that the road was very bad – also a great distance & perhaps the Cottonahaws might hurt me – there was the Good old mans advice – as his only motive for returning was that we should not run any risk while under his care; - however, I strongly insisted in going forward to see the Country & the Ind - & when he found that he could not persuade me the good old man shed tears when we parted but he laid very great stress upon those that accompanied me never to let me go out of their sight – 30 of us pursued our Journey forward - & John

December Ward, the Chief and 20 Men returned back to the Tents at 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Am – went SSW 8 Miles & crossed a small Creek & went along deep vallies with very steep high hills on each side of the road, but well covered with small Pine, Fir, Asp &c – Then SSW 8 & one of our Men shot a Bull at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm on the 30th – being nearly full Moon, & very clear & light – we remained here 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours – roasting a little of the Bull – & took a small Nap of Sleep – Fresh Gales at SW – rather cloudy – evening pretty clear Frosty – Sharp frost – & altho the Moon shone bright – the deep vallies & high hills close on each side us covered with wood, made it bad walking & riding in the Night –

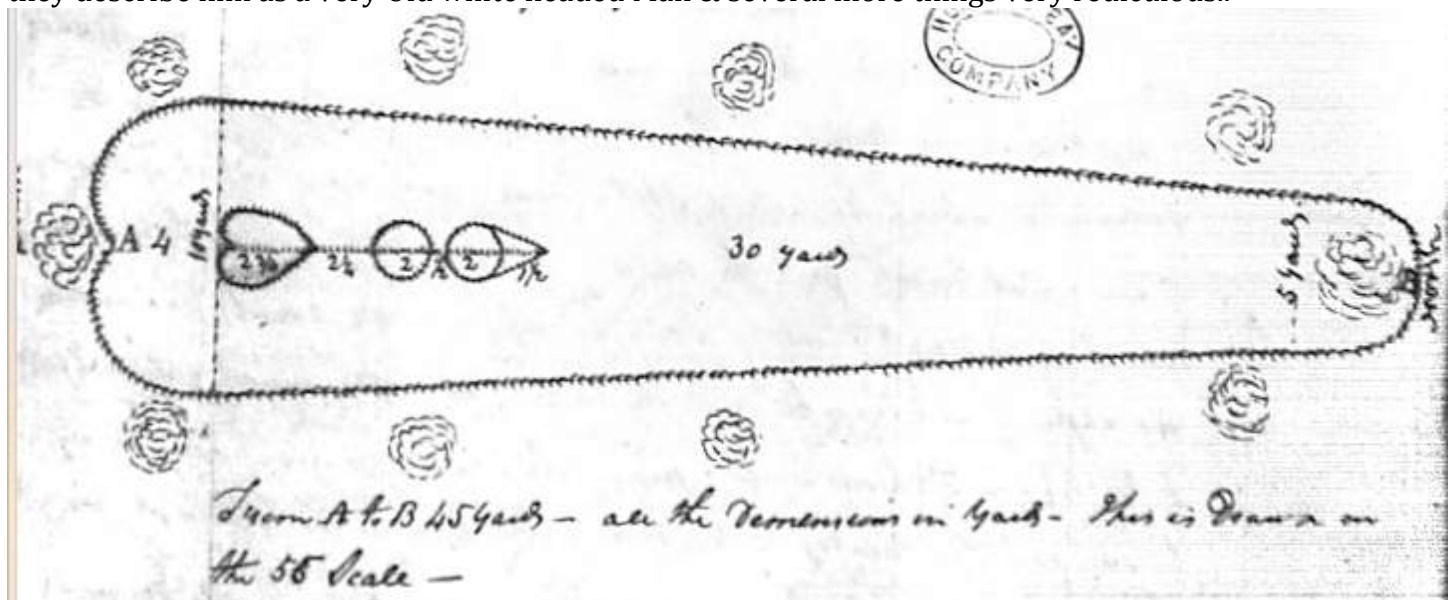
31st Monday ~ At 7 Am we reasumed our Journey, went SSW 6 Miles & set a high cliff on the Eastern edge of the Rocky Mountain, S43°E^t. about 25 Miles off – called by these Indians Nin nase tok que – or the King. & by the Southern Indians the Governor of the Mountain being the highest Known place they Know off. it inclines to the East – having a lean that way toward the top its elevation above the level of its base I suppose is not less than 4000 feet – This I estimate, with the comparison of a place that I afterwards measured, which does not appear near so high as the King – Then went SWbS 3 Miles & came to the Naw hew ooch e tay cots river about 20 Yards wide, good current & pretty deep – betwixt the rapids which are pretty frequent, with steep rocky sides in places. went up along the river on the North side W 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile & arrived close at the Eastern edge of the Mountain – Here the Cottonahaw chief met us alone – & saluted us in his manner all with a Kiss – we then crossed over the river to the South side – as it was not passable any farther on the North on account of the high hills & woods – when we crossed over the River, which was not froze over – we found 12 Cottonahaw Men sitting on the Ground where we arrived at 11 Am – All our Indians & the Cottonahaws formed themselves into a circle & sat down – & smoaked together $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour when we set off all together to their Tents which was upon the Bank of this River a little way within the Mountain – at the Side of the river at the entrance into the Mountain very high steep perpendicular rocks – went along the South side of the river within the Mountain WSW $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile & Took the



Lat. 49-52.6 33.37.30
 + 10.30
 33.48.0

Thermometer +45 – which is very warm

Decembr 31st Then continued our way close along the bank of the river which is very rocky but a narrow low pass betwixt the water & the high perpendicular rocks of the Mountain SW $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile – a place here called Naw hew ooch e ta cots, from whence this river Derives its name – The figure & exact dementions are as in the Margin – it is a place where Indians formerly assembled here to play at a particular Game with by rolling a Small hoop of 4 Inches diameter, & darting an Arrow out of the hand after it & those that put the arrow within the hoop while rolling along is reckoned to have gained. This is on a Fine level grass plain very little bigger than the enclosed Space – one side is within 10 Yards of the River – & the direction of this curiosity, is directly Due North & South – all those places that compose the outer lines & parts are small stones set close together about the bigness of a persons fist above the Ground – & they are so close set & neatly put together that it appears one entire Ledge of Stones – There are 11 piles of Stones loosely piled up at regular distances along the out sides, about 14 Inches Diameter & about the same height – These I imagine to have been Places for the Old Men to sit upon to see fair Play on both side & to be the Umpires of the Game – On my enquiring concerning the origin of this Spot the Indians gave me surprising & rediculous account – They said that a White Man – (what they universally call Europeans) came from the South many ages ago – & built this for the Indians to Play at – that is different Nations whom he wished to meet here annually & bury all anamosities, betwixt the different Tribes – by assembling here – & playing together – They also say that this same Person made the Buffalo – on purpose for the Indians, they describe him as a very Old white headed Man & several more things very rediculous..



South A 4 10 Yards $2\frac{3}{4}$ $2\frac{1}{4}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 30 Yards 5 Yards North

From A to B 45 Yards – all the Demensions in Yards – This is Drawn on the 56 Scale –

December 31st ~ Then go along the river as before W $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile – and arrive at 7 Cotton ahaw Tents – which are of a smaller size than our Indians Tents but made & pitched in the same manner – The Indians began to barter for horses as soon as we arrived & soon bought all the Cottonahaws had to spare – for a meer trifle some only giving an Old Hatchet – some an Old Kettle &c &c – Several of our Indians returned Back in the Evening to their Own Tents & the remainder stay here until tomorrow – after Smoaking a Pipe with the Cotton ahaws – I went away Privately up the River to examine & measure the altitude of the Mountain in this Place – had the Indians have known they would some of them have accompanied me & hindered me from making the remarks I wished – Went up the river West $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile above the Tents – when this river divides into 2 branches – one running from the NNW 2 Miles up that reach in sight – & the Southern branch SWbW 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile – where the river past pretty large Pine & Poplar & 2 new Beaver houses – also on the South side a large spring of excellent water spouts up from under the perpendicular rocks the Water in these rivers is very clear – & appears at times to rise above 10 feet perpendicular as I could find by small pieces of drift wood lying upon the branches of Pine trees that heighth above the level of the river – This South West branch of the river is the one the Cotton ahaw Indians come along – from the West Side of the Mountain – The Head of which by their account is about 2 of their days journey in these difficult parts which is about 14 Miles from the Western side of the Mountain ~ There is no way of Passing over these Mountains in these Latitudes except along Rivers & here it is attended with great hardships & danger, these Indians slept 5 Nights from the Western to this place which as I could find from the Indians is about 40 Mile a SW Course – They say that it is nearly of an equal breadth from the report of different Indians who have crossed over it in different Places – I climbed up a gentle ascent, tho' making an angle of more than 60° with the horizon – and after much fatigue I got to the top in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours time – from which an extensive view may be seen into the Country to the Eastward – but to the Westward the high Mountain hides the eye from seeing to any considerable distance in that direction – There was only a few Places within the Eyes extent

December that is higher than the place I stood on .. here the Mountain stands upon a level base – but to the N West toward the Head of the Bad river & the Devils Head, the mountain is upon an uneven foundation the eastern parts dip & the Western rising gradually above one another in the interior of the Mountain – More to the Southward of this the Mountain rather decreases in height & inclines more Easterly than here – nearly SE – & the Indians Say who have been at war, a great distance to the Southward that inclines still more Easterly, becomes much lower – & that there it is divided into 4 or 5 Parallel ridges – with fine plains betwixt them & a small river running thro each of these Vallies – where wood becomes Plenty – & 2 or 3 other kinds of wood they describe which I have never seen – Here the Mountain runs nearly Due N & S. true – This Hyth I measured & found it to be 3520 feet above the level of its Base – The mountain in General is composed of a dark hard Stone, there are also several heaps or Peaks of as great a height as where I measured that the top is composed of gravel & small stones quite loose – & no earth intermixed – probably owing to the rains washing the Earthy Particles away – There is small Pines growing here from the bottom to the very top, but of a very stunted growth – but in different quantities according to its situation – a Northern position is observable to produce the most wood & that of a more stout & healthy appearance than a Southern Aspect, in this direction very little is observed to grow – on the top of the Mountain I found a deal of sheeps Dung but saw none of these Animals – altho' they are very Plentiful all thro the Mountain, & never leave it to visit the Plains more than a mile or 2 from the Mountain – There are also Goats here of a small size with a small black sharp Pointed horn like a Young bull calf. There are also several other animals here in the Mountain, that the Indians describe, but from their description from want of knowing a sufficiency of their Language I was unable to judge what sort of Animals they Mean – The Mountain to the Northward of the Devils Head – extends more Westerly – nearly NW true at least by its appearance – that Place being upon the Point where the mountain Southward runs Due South & to the Northward a true NW course at least – Beyond the Mountain

December 31st to the Westward on this Latitude & as far nearly as North as the Devils head open country & little wood – not a single Buffalo on that side the Mountain being so steep & wide, that it appears like a high Perpendicular Wall across all these parts, which probably prevents those useful animals to Indians, which affords them both Food & Clothing – from going there – however this deficiency is in a great measure made up by the number of Jumping Deer & the Red Deer – The rivers on that side are well stocked with fish of which those several Tribes who inhabit those parts are fond of & eat a great deal of them – Sturgeon is also found – There are also a Good number of Beaver & Otters on this Parallel but the Wolves & Foxes are rather scarce – The Cottonahows makes their dishes or Roggans of the inner bark of the Pine – some of them are made of Pine roots – others of Grass – made in a very neat Manner & water tight – they have several curious shapes of these culinary utensils – some being made exactly in the form of a Tea Kettle wanting the neck – in these they boil their Provision, Fish &c by immersing hot Stones into it – & boiling it in that manner – The Implement they have for getting wood consist of a red Deers horn all the branches being broke off except the long one next the Head, this is sharpened like a chissel, by rubbing it upon Stones – & this constitutes their hatchet – they have also wedges made of the Same Materials with a Stone fixed in a Withey as a handle – with these they will very soon cut down a Tree & split or rive it into smaller pieces fit for firewood – This I saw them perform with expeditious success. Their Arrows are considerably longer than any of the different Surrounding Tribes – & shod with flint – They have also several more customs amongst them New together with an account of upwards of 30 Different Nations or Tribes who speake more than 15 Different & quite distinct Languages – These together with a Specimen of the principal part of the above Tribes, I have collected together into another Book – Fresh breezes at SW – Clear fine weather not any Snow here – more than at Midsummer – a very rare circumstance, by reason of the mountains being so high & attracting the Floating Vapours driven about by the Wind – Slept in the Cottonahow

December 31st tents where I returned after my ramble at dusk in the eveng – our Indians had missed me soon after I went away – & they sought me every where they thought to have found me – never thinking I would undertake the great trouble and fatigue of ascending to the summit of the Mountain – they even suspected that the Cottonahows had some of them killed me slyly – & had I had any accident, they would have fallen on the innocent Cottonahows & killed them all – I traded from these Indians 2 Drest Sheep Skins very light & supple – 1 Wolf Skin ill dressed & 2 Beaver Skins – which was in the same predicament, part of the flesh still adhering to the Skin the Hair of the Beaver was short & of a dirty brown colour – after being in the Tent some little time the Chief Man filled a Pipe & Smoked, to me & several Muddy river Indians after lighting the Pipe he made a Speech in his own tongue which I did not comprehend one word – he then made several Signs with his Pipe Stem – when he took 4 Good hearty whiffs & gave it to me – I was according to the customs I had seen amongst other Indians smoaking away at my ease, but after the 4th whiff he took the Pipe from me & made me understand by signs that 4 was the Number upon extraordinary occasions, making Peace – meeting Friends & Strangers as was the case at Present – when the Pipe was out he filled another, all of his Tobacco of their own Growing – & gave to me & made me understand that I should light it & make the same Ceremonies with the Pipe as We did in our own country – but I made several curious motions, with it that they could not comprehend or myself either however as I kept my gravity, tho with great difficulty during the ceremony – & then took 3 hearty whiffs – & delivered it to the Rest in rotation when every one gave a great ho, three times & these people appeared to be highly Pleased at my dexterity with the Pipe – These People (Chiefs) have a Tent for each wife – whom they visit occasionally – the reason they assign for this singular custom is that too many wives together never agree – which is good reasoning – this man had 4 – he was about 40 years of age and of a smaller stature – I was the first European they had ever seen. – they never was near any of the Trading Settlements altho they much wish it -

December 31st But the Muddy River, Blood, Black feet & Southern Indians always Prevent them – they wishing to monopolize all their Skins to themselves which they do giving the Poor Indians only a mere trifle – they scarce give them as much for 10 Skins as they can get for one at the Trading Settlements. – In the fall of 1800 – 2 Cottonnahow Men with 2 Women came into Acton House [beside NWCo's Rocky Mountain House] our uppermost settlement on the Saskatchewan river – with a few furs – this is the first time they have ever seen a House – after remaining here a few Days & no other Indians being near the House – 2 Canadians [La Gasse & Le Blanc] accompanied them to their Country to examine it & learn whether or not any Beaver in any quantity was to be found there – but as these 2 Men could neither read or write, what remarks they made was merely verbal – to the following Purport – They were 17 Nights after leaving the House before they arrived at the Indian Tents where they had left their families on the West side of the Mountain they were 28 Nights in returning from the time they left the Cottonahow Tents before they arrived at the House which was on the 23^d May 1801 – The Young Cottonahow man who conducted these Canadians back was unfortunately killed by a few Swampy Ground Stone Indians [Stoney Nakoda – first mention of this nation in Alberta], the day after they arrived on this side the Mountain betwixt the Sources of the Red Deers River & Saskatchewan – he was with much difficulty Prevailed upon to conduct the Canadians back – in going out they crossed over the Mountain near the Source of the Saskatchewan in an oblique direction [Howse Pass] the latter place was more easy to pass than the former across the Mountain – Beyond the Mountain opposite to the Head of the Saskatchewan a thick woody country, they passed thro' it along an old Track formerly cut by the Cottonahows – being the Northern most track they have – it was now very troublesome to pass thro' it on account of the long time they have not passed that way, being much encumbered with Wind fall wood &c – To the South beyond the Devils Head & farther still in that direction the Country is more open with fine barren Ground, they have but few horses – but a great number is running wild in the woods & Plains as wild as Deer – very few of which the Natives can catch – they have been in this state ever since the Time of the Small Pox in the Summer 1781 which swept away nearly whole Nation – In all their Route they only saw one Beaver House – or rather where Beaver harboured – they saw Lots

Dec^r 31st : holes & crevices of rocks – Their seldom went from the Old beaten Paths of the Indians, which probably was the reason of their seeing so very few – but they even suppose that few are even to be found in the more unfrequented parts – The Rivers seldom or ever freeze over in these parts in the Winter – this they did not. They had a good deal of Snow – the greater part of the Winter they Tented opposite to the King or Min nase tock que – in the fine open country & they passed over the Mountain to kill Buffalo there & remained 14 Days killing a sufficient stock – while they were doing this necessary business some kept watch on the adjoining hills in case of a surprisal by the Muddy river Inds who are at this time declared & inveterate enemies – – In their own country their Principal subsistence is upon the Jumping Deer a Small Animal They are numerous but not easily approached to kill them – The Gun is now much in use with them & the Bow is much upon the decline & seldom used – at present of this Whole Tribe there is only 17 Tents they can only muster from 45 to 50 Men for war – The Women are also very few amongst them, one man seldom having above one Woman – They are a Dirty tribe at times they were much reduced for Provisions – however they was very kind and generous to these 2 Men – They have Hatchets, Kettles, Knives, &c & in short mostly every useful article that they require – these they have formerly traded from the Muddy river Indians for Horses – which useful articles they are very careful of – Yew & Cedar is found here in plenty of a very large size – Some of these trees the Indians report are found even so far North as the Source of the Athapescow river on the West side of the Mountain it took them having little to carry with them only 5 Days more Northerly the Mountain is wider & more difficult to cross – beyond the Mountain there is extensive plains intersected with woods in Places, when another Rocky Mountain rears its lofty head in a parallel direction with the Main one & nearly as high – several of these Single detached mountains was seen by these men running nearly Parallel with one another & with the Main one which the Indians report continues in that manner to the Western Shores of this Continent – but particularly so more to the Northward – Great Numbers of sheep they saw in returning over the Mountain – several of which the Cotton ahow boy shot with his Bow & arrows – In the Winter they went 9 Days Journey in search of the Flat head Indians at present their friends – but found nothing of them – They also went in search

Dec^r 31st : of the Long Hair or Stony Bow Indians [another band of Stoney Nakoda], who inhabit more Westerly & sometimes use Canoes – but after several days search they also returned without the fortune to fall in with any of their friends – these 2 Men passed a river nearly as large as the Saskatchewan that runs in an oblique direction from the Mountain betwixt S & SW – & inclines gradually from the Mountain the head of which they suppose to be nearly Opposite to the Source of the Saskatchewan or rather more Northerly The above is the Principal part of the Particulars that the above 2 Men related – On the 6th June 1801 Mr David Thompson Dupres & 9 Canadians with the Crow a Southern Indian as guide, there entered to cross the Mountain near the source of the Saskatchewan, but after being away about 3 Weeks the Guide refused to go any farther for fear of the Cotton ahows killing him – They had entered the Mountain several days, but made very small progress – in the day they found the current so exceedingly strong that they could not stem it also deep – & in the Morning not a drop of water was to be seen – This is understood after they left the Main Channel which took a Northern direction – more Northerly than they wished to follow – the cause of the sudden rise & depression of the river is owing to the great quantity of Snow which accumulates here in the Winter to a prodigious depth – & the heat of the Sun at this Season of the Year darting rays nearly Perpendicular & the strong reflection of heat from the adjoining steep rocks melting the Snow very rapidly which causes the above mentioned circumstance which at first glance appears very singular or almost impossible yet notwithstanding is strictly true – Mr Thompson fixes the Source of the Bad River in 50°.57' & 115° W. – They also found a Yew Tree there about 4 Inches Diameter the only one I ever heard being seen so much to the North – a Good well beaten Buffalo track along the North side of the Bad river within the Mountain – with a kind of Lake & some pine Islands in it – They saw several herds of sheep near the Mountain one of which they killed one of its Horns the curvature included measured 3f 6 In & 15 Inches round the base – The Southern aspects of the Mountain only that there is any wood above $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way up – the Northern Situation, woods to the very top of Small pine – a little above the Cotton ahows Tents – a fine level bottom near the river –

January 1st : Tuesday - The Men that accompanied me here - have Traded all the Horses from the Cotton ahows - that they are obliged to carry their Tents and every thing they have upon their Backs - great part of which falls upon the Women - the men carrying little or nothing ~ at 11 ½ Am we got underway on our return to our Tents - the same way we came - all the Seven Tents of Cotton ahows accompany us - except 2 Men who are dispatched across the Mountain to their Countrymen & they are to bring back several more Horses to Trade & give as presents to our Indians - They say that they will return back to us in 27 Nights more - put up at 4 Pm in company with the Cotton ahows - who pitched their Tents in a manner I had never before seen - they chose at present the Middle of a Small hammock of Asp - & with their knives they notched the trees all on the out Side forming a circle the size of the Tent - than bent all the Tops together & put on the Tent - This was very expeditiously done - Myself & some of the Older Indians Slept in their Tents, but all the Young men slept without a few high steep ridges on our right near the Track running Parallel with the Mountain with little or no woods on them - on the top of the ridges a kind of Fir, very Old & stunted with great quantities of a particular Yellow Moss adhering to the Trunk & Branches - these Trees have been dead apparently many Years - This Moss makes an excellent Yellow Dye, for Porcupine Quills - White thread or Silk it will dye as well & have as fine a bright colour as Gamboge - It is something like cotton & when boiled becomes glutinous & clammy - Several of our Indians took a Good quantity of this Moss - which is only found here or near here - as I learnt from the Indians - A very fine flat Level Plain close to the side of the Mountain with out any woods on the South side the Naw hew or che ta cot river - on the North of which it is High Hills & woody - This river joins the South branch low down - all the rivers to the North of Min nase tock que - fall into Hudsons Bay - & all those to the South of that Place into the Gulph of Mexico - Fresh breezes at S Clear fine weather on my arrival at the Tent Mr Ward informed me that 12 Tents of Black feet Indians arrived there - & that they brought a very large herd of Buffalo into the Pound - that they broke down the Sides & the greater part of them got clear away -

January 2nd : Wednesday ~ at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ Am Myself with 4 Indian men set off Direct for our Tents – where we arrived at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm – The Others remain with the Cotton ahows & to come together – Fresh Gales at SSW clear weather. 3 Thursday ~ Fresh Gales from the Westward, hazy weather –

4th Friday ~ Light breezes from the NW forepart cloudy – Latter part clear – The Young Men went away to bring Buffalo to the Pound but got none into it – at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm our Indians with the Cotton ahows arrived – they did not pitch their own Tents, but was accomodated in those belonging to our Indians – one or 2 in each – a Black foot Man Stabbed his Wife with a Knife in the Belly of which wound she immediately expired – The cause was that she had been very liberal of her favours to a Young Man – This Tent pitched away alone – that the friends or relations of the Woman might not retaliate upon the husband – while the affair was fresh in their minds – if a few days pass away nothing more will be thought of this affair – This is these Inds custom relating to such an affair – – At these times the Young Man is obliged immediately to abscond to a considerable distance to others of his Country men who never fail to receive him kindly – This Tent went towards the Other Pound which is SE from us – also several Tents moved here from that place – we are now 98 Tents altogether

5th Saturday ~

*by D. Hall 011 33.41.0
+ 10.30
Lat. 50.20.22 33.51.30 Thermometer 25*

For these 9 Days Past the Thermometer has been always between +31 & +50 no more Snow here than in the Middle of Summer – which is some thing remarkable – Fresh Gales at SSW – Flying clouds – Set the Watch 25' back & also the regulator $\frac{1}{3}$ °. –

6th Sunday ~ at 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ Am we moved WNW 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles & put up at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm – at the Stommix e pis con river the same as we did the 25th December – Fresh breezes at SSW flying clouds – a great quantity of Snow last Night & This Day fell at the Mountain – altho' the Wind came from that Quarter & the distance only about 8 Miles there only fell here 1/10 of an Inch in the evening – Good large Poplars here – No Buffalo to be seen Eastward – the Grass all on fire about Spitcheyee..

January 7th : Monday - Fresh Gales at SW flying clouds – warm weather – The little Snow that fell yesterday all melted away – but at the Mountain it is all quite white yet – arrived 2 Young Southern Indian Men – they say that 5 Tents of theirs & 12 of Sessews [Sarcee] will be here in a few Days –

8th Tuesday ~ A Heavy Gale at SW flying clouds – a great thaw here – the little Ice that was in the river is nearly all melted.

9th Wednesday ~ Fresh Gales at SW overcast – at 3 Pm arrived here the 5 Tents of Southern & 12 Tents of Sessew Indians – These Indians particularly the Crees are far from their own country & very seldom ever bring their Tents & Families so far from home – but as they pretend to be Great Doctors – and all the Slave Indians [typically Dené – but here Fidler refers to Sarcee whose language is a variant of Athapaskan, as is the Dené language] believe it – they come here only to get what Skins they can from these Indians, for leaves, roots &c of their own gathering. This is the way they have undertaken to procure Skins to pay their last Years Credits with – as they are too lazy to kill them themselves – probably before they leave us they will have 2 or 300 Skins, acquired in this manner – They have not seen any Trading Settlements since the fall – they are in want of Ammunition & Tobacco – which I traded with them for Skins to the amount of 40 MB – but the Muddy river Indians did not relish this kind of traffic as they think they have an exclusive right to every article we have with us – but not without purchasing them fairly – They are great smoakers – & every day numbers of the Old Men come into our Tents to have a Whiff – as the greater part have none of their own, but what they cultivate themselves – which is far of an inferior quality than ours – It is in the manner of Leaf Tobacco – they having no method of manufacturing it – as the Europeans – Evening clear & Calm –

10th Thursday ~ Smart Gales from the SW cloudy weather – in the Evening a heavy Gale – Grass on fire about the Bad river which burns with great fury – Several Tents of Muddy river Indians joined us – they are now all together of this nation being 190 Tents – there are here also 13 Tents of Black feet – 5 of Southern Indians & 12 of Sessews – in all 220 Tents – altogether – having amongst them upwards of two thousand Horses – that feed in a fine level – near the Tents – a very fine sight – The Indians Particularly the Slave Inds are very careful of them – The Southern Inds pay very little attention to them – & frequently they have none

January 11th : Friday ~ Fresh Gales at SW pretty clear – Water rose 8 Inches in the river this morning – a Great many Buffalo towards the Mountain – at 9 Pm an alarm was spread thro all the Tents – that the enemy had been close here & carried away a number of horses in several bands – As they are daily in dread of some of the Flat Head Indians, coming to steal horses – every man armed himself and sallied forth in quest of the supposed enemy who had drove the Horses away – but after being away above 2 hours they returned without seeing any person – but found the Horses that was missing – Some of the Young men in a frolic had drove these Horses a little distance away on purpose to create an alarm thro fun – which the Old men was very much displeased at when the true story came to their Knowledge – Just at the Moment of the Alarm – I had stripped & laid down to sleep – but the Indians rushed into the Tent & insisted on my getting up – & on my having no arms they put a Bayonet into my hand & told me to defend myself – if any of the enemy made his appearance near me – but at the same time they desired that I should not accompany them in search of the enemy – as perhaps I might get hurt – This was very complisant & kind to me – as they very much wished no harm whatever should happen me while under their protection – This unnecessary bustle of the Indians, prevented them from retiring to rest till near morning –

12th Saturday ~ at 8 Am another alarm was given that the Enemy was seen near upon horseback in Great numbers, towards the Mountain amongst the several Small hills in that direction – A Great number of the Men again Mounted on horseback & well armed sallied out after the enemy in the direction they had been seen – but after riding there they found out that what had been supposed an Enemy on horseback was a herd of Buffalo that had been frightened at something, perhaps Red Deer & was galloping over a hill – but the Flat Heads being so strongly fixed in their imaginations of some – that a few of our Inds would still insist, that it was them (ie the Enemy) but after a farther search at last they all was convinced that none of that Tribe was near here – They appeared much disappointed at finding nobody to kill – we being so very numerous at this time that had a considerable number even had ventured here to steal horses – very few would have reached back – Fresh Gales at SW – clear – Much water in the river by the thaw

January 13th : Sunday - Fresh breezes at SW pretty clear – Men on hunting & killed several Buffalo – and a few red Deer – the latter particularly for the Skin to Dress into Leather, to make Jackets – Stockings, Shoes &c which is much more Durable & neat than the Buffalo leather. – 2 Tents joined us that was tenting $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the Eastward of us – they did not put out their fire when they left it which spread amongst the Dry Grass – & ran with great velocity, & burnt with very great fury – which enlightened the Night like Day – and appeared awfully Grand – the wind being fresh drove it to a great distance in a little while – fortunately the Wind drove it from us – or had the Wind been the other way either us, the Tents or some of the Horses would have very narrowly escaped – These fires amongst the long Dry grass are very dangerous particularly when they happen in the Night – as was the case at present which was about Midnight before it began – which alarmed us all very much – & prevented any of us from sleeping again this Night –

14th Monday ~ Fresh Gales at WSW, Cloudy weather – Grass still continues burning but is now a long way off – The Indians very much disapprove of the grass taking fire near them, on several accounts – for self preservation & the Enemy seeing the Smoke ascending at a great distance is an excellent Guide to conduct them straight towards it – as seldom any of these fires happen at this Season but what Inds make themselves accidentally. The Men on hunting & killed several Buffalo – towards the Mountain – We burn wood every day being a pretty Plentiful place – but it is generally the upper branches of the Poplar that are dry – & fit for firewood – which they procure – by tying a hooked stick to the end of a very long Pole & pull down the single detached dry branches one by one – At the Pound we left the 6th Instant the Pound being quite full laying 5 or 6 deep one upon the other all thro it which in the Whole was above 250 Buffalo when the Wind happened to blow from the Pound in the direction of the Tents – there was an intollerable Stench of the great number of Putrified carcasses &c on which account was the reason of our leaving it –

15th Tuesday ~ Fresh Gales at WSW. flying Clouds – The Grass still keeps burning both to the SW & NE of us – in the latter direction it is a great way off – These fires burning off the Old grass – in the ensuing Spring & Summer makes excellent fine sweet feed for the Horses & Buffalo &c –

January 15th Wenesday ~

Wenesday - D. N. A. L. 37° 8' 45"					
Lat 50° 23' 41"					
Thermometer 41					
D. N. A. L.		D. N. A. L.		D. N. A. L.	
# 1.. 57.. 0	61.. 37.. 30	# 2.. 27.. 0	61.. 51.. 30	# 3.. 30.. 0	61.. 57.. 0
52.. 0	30.. 0	28.. 5	51.. 45	30.. 50	57.. 15
53.. 15	30.. 30	29.. 0	52.. 15	40.. 0	57.. 45
+ 54.. 0	30.. 45	+ 29.. 30	52.. 30	40.. 50	58.. 0
42 55.. 10	39.. 30	40 30.. 15	52.. 45	41.. 30	58.. 15
56.. 0	40.. 0	31.. 0	53.. 15	42.. 20	58.. 45
56.. 45	40.. 15	31.. 55	53.. 30	2.. 40.. 10	61.. 57.. 50
58.. 0	40.. 30	32.. 45	53.. 45	- 14.. 36	+ 9.. 50
59.. 5	41.. 15	33.. 50	54.. 15	2.. 25.. 34	62.. 7.. 40
59.. 40	41.. 45	34.. 20	54.. 45		
1.. 58.. 29	61.. 39.. 36	2.. 30.. 46	61.. 53.. 1		
- 14.. 36	+ 9.. 50	- 14.. 36	+ 9.. 50		
1.. 40.. 53	61.. 49.. 26	2.. 16.. 10	62.. 2.. 51		

0.7a 15.29.0	0.7a 12.48.20	0.7a 11.59.0
aa 15.32.20	aa 12.52.24	aa 12.3.20
9.7a 29.57.50	9.7a 33.32.50	9.7a 34.19.50
aa 29.7.44	aa 32.44.34	aa 33.31.59
m - 59.9	m - 59.9	m - 59.8
9 - 16.15	9 - 16.15	9 - 16.16
0 - 16.10	0 - 16.10	0 - 16.10
+ 1.25 - 2.39 + 10.4	+ 2.3 1/2 + 1.45 + 10 1/2	+ 2.16 + 2.57 + 10 - 62.45.37
62.. 20.. 55	62.. 39.. 23	
Long 114.. 25 3/4	114.. 9 3/4	114.. 42 1/4 Work -

D. N. A. L.		D. N. A. L.	
# 2.. 17.. 0	20.. 18.. 0	# 2.. 19.. 25	26.. 50.. 30
17.. 45	10.. 30	20.. 30	40.. 30
18.. 25	3.. 30	21.. 10	33.. 45
2.. 17.. 43	20.. 10.. 40	2.. 20.. 22	26.. 41.. 35
- 14.. 34	+ 9.. 50	- 14.. 30	+ 9.. 50
2.. 3.. 9	20.. 20.. 30	2.. 5.. 44	26.. 57.. 25

at midnight a heavy Gale sprung up at WSW which continued all the remainder of the night & this Day - Flying Clouds - men on hunting at the Foot of the Mountain. & killed several Buffalo - They say that they are plentiful there. -

17th Thursday ~ Smart Gales at WNW, forepart cloudy, latter part more clear - warm weather - the Thermometer has been always between +40 & +55 ever since we have been here - The men regularly every morn^g when near a river as at present spend the greater part of the winter notwithstanding Frost & Snow - plunge into the water over head & ears & remain in the water a few minutes - when they return to their lodge They say that bathing in cold water - invigorates & strengthens their bodies - & makes them more Fit to meet hardships - when they go to war - men on hunting at the mountain & killed several Buffalo - all these is run upon horseback & shott with arrows -

January 17th

1793		Buckingham House		Dall. O. 22	
January 17.		74. 46. 15		22. 40. 30	
2. 31. 45		74. 46. 30		46. 3	
32. 40		74. 47. 0		46. 54	
33. 20		74. 47. 15		22. 46. 2	
34. 0		74. 47. 45		22. 39. 10	
34. 50		74. 48. 15		22. 49. 0	
35. 50		74. 48. 45		50	
36. 25		74. 49. 0		Dall. O. 12	
37. 25		74. 49. 15		23. 20. 0	
38. 15		74. 50. 0		40. 17	
39. 10		74. 50. 15		49. 0	
2. 35. 22		74. 51. 51		23. 19. 10	
14. 15		74. 52. 36		23. 29. 0	
2. 21. 7		74. 53. 27			
114. 43					

Mean of All 114°..30'..11" West Long^{de} from Greenwich Light Wind in the Afternoon veered to WSW – Evening Calm – These two Days – during all the while I was observing a very great body of the Inds assembled all round me – to look on – but on speaking to the Chief he made them form a large circle that every body Present might see & not & incommode me – They have many whimsical notions concerning me & the Instruments – they had such a Dread of the Sextant, that none of them would touch it – had they been requested – They imagine that I could see all over the Country with it & know what & where other Indians was Doing – as I Generally had to look Southerly in observing – in which Direction is the Snake Indian Country – I have frequently had the Question put to me – whether or not I saw those Inds – & what number of Tents & several more ridiculous questions which they was fully persuaded that I could tell if that I was inclined – I never filled their heads with any thing that I could tell more than what themselves Knew – as had any accident have happened to them, they would with very great probability have imagined that myself & Instruments had been the sole occasion of such accidents – as they are full of Superstition.

18th Friday ~ Heavy Gales at WSW. hazy weather – a small shower of rain in the Night – the only one we have had these many days past Several Tents of Black feet pitched away from us towards their own Country about the Red Deers river – they will cross over the Bad river below where we did in coming here All down this river to nearly the South branch only a few Pines & poplars are to be found close along the river – the Pines above near the Mountain & the Poplars below – with a Good deal of Maple – some asp – & Birch – all an entire open country on both sides that cover many miles.

January 19th : Saturday ~ Fresh Gales at WSW. forepart Clear, latter part rather cloudy – The remaining Tents of the Black Feet & several Tents of Muddy river Indians pitched away towards the Bad river – We remain here with a great many Tents waiting the return of the Cotton ahows from beyond the Mountain with Horses – they was to return in 27 Nights after the 1st Inst – The fire amongst the Grass rages still very furiously –

20th Sunday ~ Fresh Gales at WSW – overcast weather – Several more Tents of our Indians moved towards the Bad river – The 12 Tents of Sessews also pitched away for the upper Beaver hills in the vicinity of the Saskatchewan river – The Men here on hunting towards the Mountain, & killed several Fatt Cow & some red Deer.

21st Monday ~ Heavy Gale at WSW. Clear weather, The 5 Tents of Crees with several Tents of our Indians moved nearer the Mountain – the Wood here for firing becoming scarce – Finished Trading nearly all my small Supply of Goods amounting to 136 MB of Wolves – Foxes &c – It is observable in this interior part of the country especially near the Mountain, that the Westerly Winds are the most prevalent as to blow from that quarter above $\frac{2}{3}$ of the whole Year – & that fine weather continues either Winter or Summer, when the Wind is from that Quarter – when the Wind happens to veer to the Eastward or from N to SE – in the Winter it Seldom fails of bringing Snow & cold Frosts – & in the Summer – cold bleak, penetrating & Chilling Winds – & when the Snow happens to Fall here when the Wind Veers to the Warm quarter, it Seldom remains above a few Days, before it is all gone – in any Month of the Winter Season. The cold weather that sometimes happens to continue a few days, when the Wind is Easterly is very bad for these Indians, generally residing in the Open Plains, & are very much exposed to it – & when the Wind changes to the Westward – it is soon announced thro all the Tents – & the Inds appears happy at such change – Generally Strong winds from the Westward – Whereas from the opposite quarter, seldom any thing more than light winds or easy Gales – This is nearly a constant way thro all the interior even at great Distances from the Mountain Eastward –

January 22nd : Tuesday ~ at Noon we all moved SW 2 ½ Miles, to where the Southern Indians & Muddy river Indians pitched Yesterday – owing to the scarcity of firewood we encamp at the same river we have been remaining at these many Days – We are now about 6 Miles from the Eastern edge of the Mountain – which I mean again to visit in a few Days – Grass on fire all around us & in some Places pretty near – that we keep a watch to keep our Horses from being burnt – of late the Young Men have rode our horses to fetch meat & sometimes drove them away – that we might give them a little Vermillion to paint their faces with, of which they are very fond – they used us so often in this manner to get the Paint that at last we was obliged to mention this to the Chief – he rigged himself out in our Clothes & rode amongst the Tents & made a long Speech – in several subjects – not forgetting to forbid any one of his Countrymen from either using or driving any of our Horses away for the Future – Which request was paid particular attention too by all – Light Airs from the Eastward till Noon, then veered to its usual quarter WSW – & blew a fresh Gale – clear fine weather.

23rd Wednesday ~ Fresh Gales at WSW, Clear weather – Men on hunting & brought home Bulls meat no cows to be seen – being all drove away by the great number of Indians hunting here these many Days –

24th Thursday ~ Nearly calm clear fine weather – Men on hunting & Killed several Bulls as Yesterday. –

25th Friday ~ at 8 ¾ Am I went on horseback to the Mountain, no one would accompany me – went up along this Bull Pond River SWbS 7 Miles & arrived at the edge of the Mountain – in this Place it is composed of the same kind of hard dark coloured Stone as at the other Place I was at the 1st Inst – & here the Mountain runs SSE & NNW Pr the Compass – Seven Inches Snow here – altho there has been none in the Plains to speak off these many Days past – no more than 4 miles from the Mountain – about 1 Mile from the edge, appears to be the Division betwixt Winter & Summer – cold weather I experienced here – altho a little distance away fine & warm – a very great difference in the short Distance of 2 or 3 Miles – Several Small Streams issue out at the foot of the Mountain in different Places – & forms large beds of thick Ice

January 25th : in the Small rivulets – here there are some very lofty hills running Parallel with the Mountain – & in some Places very steep & no woods on them for a short space – a few Bulls happened at this Time to be upon one of these high hills – & they appeared to me very little bigger than Sheep, on account of their great elevation – altho that part of the hill where I stood was nearly Perpendicular & they nearly right above me – They had got there along a Gentle ascent behind, I intended going up there for a better Prospect but the Air being so very Keen & the Snow so deep & crusted over & hard above which prevented me – it is also very thicketty here of Small pines – & the Pines grow nearly all the way up to the Top of the Mountain – It appears here of the same Prodigious height and form as at the termination of my survey to the Southward – This Bull Pond river does not scoop itself out a Passage thro the Eastern Parts of the Mountain as other considerable rivers do – but is supplied by a great number of Springs that form several small rivulets – & joining together forms – the Stommix ipis con river – Saw several Bulls in the vicinity of the Mountain but not a single Cow – or any Other Animal – a species of the Tyger inhabit these mountains & near them – but never found any distance away – it is about the size of a pretty large dog – of rather a Slender make – with a brownish Hair – intermixed with some spots about the size of a Shilling nearly black – they are very fierce & vicious – at some times they will attack an Indian – & some instances are Known of their having killed 2 or 3 not long ago – Very hilly near the Mountain – & extends this way towards the Devils head – the Bow hills that commence on the Northern bank of the Bad river is a continuation of these hills – only there they have a greater magnitude & elevation – which extend several miles – & it would be very difficult to approach close to the Mountain in those Parts – for the great heights of these Hills – on the very ridges a fir grow & not many yards wide at the top like the ridge of a house – lower down – Pines – Birch &c are found – returned back the same way I came & arrived at the Tents at 3 Pm – Light breezes & variable, clear warm weather –

January 26th : Saturday ~ Light breezes & variable Easterly – with a little Snow falling all Day – which was 1/10 of an Inch in the Evening.

27th Sunday ~ at 7 ½ Am the Thermometer stood at only ½ ° above the Cypher & at Noon 25 above – Light breezes at NW overcast weather – Several of the Indian Men at the Pound we left the 6th Inst – killing wolves – by setting snares on the Lodge & some by running after them on horseback & shooting them with Arrows – This latter is the general method that all the Slave Indians Kill that Animal – When they have overgorged themselves with meat – they are not able to run fast – when they happen to be hungry no horse can overtake them – they run particularly towards the last in a very zig zag manner – to elude their Pursuers – When no Pound is near – The Inds Kill a Bull – or 2 – on purpose for the Wolves they come & eat their bellies full in the Night & next Morning early the Hunters pursue them – & when overgorged very seldom one escapes.

28th Monday Light breezes from the Northward, clear sharp weather, In the afternoon all the Women & Children was ordered out of our Tent – and Many of the Old Men came in – as many as it could conveniently hold – They are going to conjure to be able to Know when the Chiefs Son & several More Young men are to return, who went to the Snake Indians – a long while since – as they have been expected home some time ago – & the Indians fear that either the Snake Indians have Killed them or some other accident happened to them – These 4 or 5 Days past a little of the Necromantic Art was performed – but as the Man was Young in his Profession – little regard was paid to his Predictions – This was by means of a White headed Eagle stuffed & dried – that inhabit these parts – it was suspended by a cord to one of the Tent Poles – about 2 feet from the Ground – & the wind blowing pretty fresh that shook the Pole that the Bird was tyed too & by that action the Eagle moved, & by its different motions the owner of the Bird founded his Predictions – he Kept burning a fragrant grass under it all the While & Speaking unintelligible jargon all the while – but as the time had some Days ago elapsed that he Prophetised the Young Men would return – the Old Men was much displeased at his pretensions to an art they well saw he did not understand – They therefore Employed a Blood Indian Man who at present resides with these Indians for him to exert his Art – as

January 28th they told me that the various times they had employed him in solving their particular doubts in regard to futurity, that he had never once deceived them – This Man was laid upon his back in the Tent & all his toes upon both feet was tyed together with strong twine – his arms was then put behind him & all his fingers tyed together in the same manner – He was then sewed up in a Buffalo robe – & after this above 40 fathoms of strong line was folded about him in every part to secure him – not a part was to be seen but his head – & it appeared impossible that he could never extricate himself from all these bandages – that confined him – a little Square house or rather 4 strong upright stakes had been drove into the ground within the Tent opposite the Door – & Dressed Moose, Buffalo Skins &c covered it up impervious to the day – This building was about 5 feet high & 6 long by 3 wide – all hung round on the out side, with a great number of the dried hoofs of calves – strung together in several bundles of 100 or more each which make a rattling noise when shook – The Necromancer was lifted by 4 Men & put into this House all alone – & the Skins covered securely again over the part that he went in at – a rattle composed of the dry cod of a Buffalo – with a few small stones within – was put in along with him All was quite mute & all attention in the Tent – surprising to relate that he alone in 20 Minutes time had got one or both of his hands at liberty & began to rattle – in 15 Minutes more he appeared to have extricated himself entirely as by his voice he seemed to be standing upright & now began to shake the little conjuring house of his as if he was determined to shake it all to pieces – the rattling of the dry hooves – made a very loud Noise – the man now began to speak in a particular kind of Manner & continued so 2 minutes – then again shaking vehemently his inclosure – & continued in this manner alternately speaking an unknown jargon & rattling his little house for about 10 Minutes – when he at that time announced that the Spirit had condescended to favour him with what answers he required to demand – he then told in a particular tone so as to be understood, that the Young Men would arrive in 2 Days more & that we must Pitch away directly to the Spitcheyee where they would join us – that they would have been here sooner but that their Legs of some of them was sore – & unfit for walking –

January 28th This ceremony occupied the space from 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ PM – when every person retired from the Tent – for a few Minutes, while the Necromancer – clothed himself – We had then a sumptuous Supper – of several dishes – of meat on the happiness of soon seeing the safe return of the Young Men – before the conjuration business commenced – another ceremony with the Pipe took place – & in a manner I had never before seen – a small Sod of earth was dug up within the Tent – the Pipe was filled but not lighted – of their own Tobacco – when 5 Men all at the same time with very grave & pious countenances took hold of the Pipe stem & directed it first to the hole recently made in the earth – which they kept there above a Minute – all the while uttering a kind of pious ejaculation – the Stem was then directed to the Zenith – the Nadir – the 4 Cardinal Points begining at the quarter of the Rising Sun & ending at the North – all the while the above 5 Old Veterans humming a kind of hymn – in a hoarse & melancholy tone – they then Pointed the Stem towards the fire – & River when fire was put to the Pipe & they smoked out of it & passed it round to every Person – This appeared to me to be a very solemn religious ceremony – on my enquiring of them afterwards concerning this they would not give me the least satisfaction – during the time of this ceremony of the Pipe they hinted 2 or 3 times for me to go out of the Tent – which I refused – being determined to see the whole Process of their notions this Day – This certainly must have been a religious business – perhaps imploring the Maker of all to continue their health – to grant them a long Life – to never let them want any Buffalo & to protect & shield them against all Enemies. – This Blood Indian Man that now gave us a specimen of the Necromantic Art – was initiated by the Southern Indians – who are looked upon by all the Slave Indians as the most expert – & true prophetic foretellers or lookers into futurity of any nation known by them – whether at this time his predictions will be fulfilled the short Space of 2 Days more will determine he appears confident of his superior Knowledge by fixing such a short Period for the fulfillment of his necromancy. – Tomorrow we are to move in consequence of the prophecy towards Spitcheyee – or the Day after.

January 29th Tuesday – Fresh Gales at WSW – clear warm weather – all the Snow melted that fell on Saturday –

30th Wednesday – at Noon 8 Tents of us Pitched. we now direct our Course toward Buckingham House – went NE 2 ½ miles – then NEbN 4 ½ Miles down along the Side of Stommix e pis con river & put up at 2 ¾ PM – 1 ¼ mile below where we did on the 25th of last Month – Left all the rest behind – and also all the Cotton ahows – except 1 Man – 2 Women & 2 Children – This man is to accompany us to the House, as our Indians tell him – This Man is the Most intelligent Indian I have ever seen – he speaks fluently 5 different Indian Languages of the interior parts – he has been residing with all those different people & acquired their idiom – viz – Snake Indian – Flatt head – Crow Mountain – Blue Mud Indians [Nez Perce] – & the Pauk way coo'ya [Bella Coola]. he is about 35 Years of Age – he has also been to the Westward near the Sea Coast – he also speaks a little of our Indian tongue – the others of his Country men we left behind – are to return to their country – The Chief Promised that his 2 Young Men should return with Horses in 27 Nights the 9th Inst and as the time is past that they promised to return – our Inds hold the Chief in great contempt & tells him that at first he meant to deceive them – waiting for those Horses has been the occasion of our remaining here several Days more than we intended – This Cotton ahow Chief is a little short Man about 45 Years of age – & insists on a proper respect being paid to him which was the case until the time being expired that the Presents should have been brought according to his promise – after that very little attention was paid to him by our Indians – While he was a stranger at his first coming to remain in our Tent – he would neither suffer any person to walk either before or behind him in the Tent – which particularity all our Indians does not claim – only that no Person shall walk before them – The Cotton ahow Chief & his Countrymen wished much to have permission from our Indians to visit our House which at first was promised to them to get whatever they could – but on the non fulfillment of his promise – they tell them they shall not come near the European Establishment – Tho all along this was their determination from the first – The rest of the Muddy River Inds they say will follow us in a few days fresh breezes & variable all round the compass – rather cool – a strong gale in the Night broke out at WSW –

January 31st Thursday ~ at 11 ½ AM we reassumed our Journey back towards Buckingham House – went NEbN 5 miles – here the Stommix e pis con river falls into the Spitcheyee River – The head of the former at the Mountain appears here to be SSW ¾ W – & the latter SW ½ W which appears now a good way within the Mountain – then went NbEN 4 miles & put up at 3 ¼ PM – at a small hammock of Poplars close by the side of Spitcheyee River – This River here is about 25 Yards wide – pretty good current – with several small rapids – the Grass all burnt where we passed over this Day – & no wood but the single hammock where we now are – the banks of this River above here steep white rocks – & lower down, the banks are more low & not rocky – Fresh breeze at E cloudy fine weather – at 6 ½ PM – the Chiefs Son & all the Young Men returned & arrived safe here – some of them had swelled Legs with walking – Such is the result of the prediction of the Necromancer the 28th Inst – that these Young Men would return to this Place in 2 Days after his consultation with his Demons – What opinion can one justly form of that affair – for my part I think it is more by Chance than by any Knowledge that he can pretend to – The Snake Indians used them all very kindly & made them several handsome presents of wearing apparel & some excellent horses to Present to the Chiefs here & that the utmost of the Snake Inds wishes was that harmony and cordiality – with Peace & good friendship may long subsist betwixt the two nations – these Young Men was 15 Nights going there – & only 8 on returning here – the greater number of them had a horse each to ride on back –

February 1st Friday ~ at 10 ¼ AM got underway & went NEbN 7 miles down the River & put up at 1 ¼ PM – at Spitcheyee ¼ of a Mile lower down that river than we did on the 14th Dec^r – John Ward & several of the Indians tell me that they saw flock of 17 Large Ducks – who the Indians suppose have been here all Winter – as many places in the river has not been froze over this Winter – Grass all burnt hereabouts – Fresh breeze at East, cloudy with a little small Snow & very cold – at 2 ½ PM – Thermometer stood at 2 below the Cypher – which is the severest cold we have experienced this Winter – at 4 ½ PM 4 Men running Bulls – & killed 4 – no Cows near us – In Pitching along this Day I was obliged to wrap myself up in my Blanket – the cold was so very severe – some of the Inds got themselves a little froze on their faces – – Fortunately we are at a pretty good Place for firewood – to resist the cold.

February 2nd Saturday ~ at 7 ½ AM Thermometer A -9. the lowest that it has been here this Winter – at Noon it rose to -2 light breeze at SSE – overcast & very cold – Did not move owing to the Severity of the Weather & having an open country to pass thro' ~ where I was at the Mountain the 25th Jan^y – bears from here S 38° West – as also the place we lay at, at the time I last visited the Mountain – about 7 Miles from it – All the Land in this Country is a fine light sandy kind of Soil – & if cultivated would produce excellent crops of all kinds of Grain – the Seasons here being so very mild & temperate in the Winter Season – The Men did not hunt on account of the severe cold –

3rd Sunday ~ The weather milder than Yesterday – at 11 ¼ AM we reassumed our Journey – went N 8 ½ Miles & put up at 2 ½ PM – about ¾ of a Mile NE lower down than where we did at the Ee too ki up river 13th December last – This river joins the Spitcheyee river ¾ mile NE from where we now put up. at 7 ½ in the Morning Thermometer at -3 - at 3 ½ PM +7 – Light Airs & variable, overcast, sharp weather – Most part of the Grass burnt that we travelled this Day – which was very fine grass when we passed this in December – after we put up I went into a small creek, deep & narrow but no water in it – & found two large & deep excavations in the Earth one on each side of the steep creek directly opposite each other – immediately it came into my mind that these 2 places was the habitations for the Winter of Grizzle Bears – the most Savage of the Bear tribe – fortunately for me none was in – at the time as they would undoubtedly have rushed out & instantly devoured me – ever after I was more cautious how I went up these steep narrow creeks again – The creek here was not above a fathom wide & more than 12 feet deep & the sides perpendicular – The sight of these Bears holes made me hasten my way out both sooner & much quicker than I intended at the first entering into it –

4th Monday ~ at 9 AM got underway went NEbN 10 Miles & presently arrived at the Banks of the Bad river which is very steep – and purely bare – a mixture of Earth & Clay – Went down the bank & down the River EbS ½ mile & put up at 1 ½ PM about 1 ½ Mile below where the Spitcheyee river empties itself into this one – All burnt Grass as Yesterday. Men killed a few Bulls – Fresh breezes & variable Westerly – cloudy wind & warm – The Thermometer has again ascended to +40 – a great diff betwixt Yesterday & this in the temperature of the Air. –

February 5th Tuesday ~ The Warm weather Yesterday – & the Thermometer falling to +8 this morning – being too severe – and as we are at a pretty good Place for firewood – we did not move this Day – Smart Gales at NW – cloudy & very cold – the Middle of the Day clear – This river open in several places – that has never been froze over this winter – One of our Trading Indians, troubled me much to buy a horse from him for Skins – I therefore gave him 11 Wolves & 4 Beaver Skins – for a very good Young Horse about 3 Years Old – as I well knew that he always traded at our Settlements was the reason of my trading it for Skins in the manner I did. –

6th Wednesday ~ At 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ AM we reassumed our Journey towards home as we do every time that we Pitch – crossed the river over the Ice – & went up the Northern bank of the Bad river – which is very steep & pretty long – then went in the Plains NbE 5 miles & put up at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ – at a fine spring of good water – we tyed up several bundles of Firewood this morning before we started to carry with us – as we shall be several Days before we shall see a single sprig of wood of any sort or size – this we use to make the fire & then afterward burn Buffalo dung – with a small sprig or two occasionally. Morning sharp – afternoon clear & warm – Thermometer at 3 PM +43 – None of the Grass burnt on the North side of the Bad river – that we can see any where – Men running Buffalo & killed a few – they are now not Plentiful hereabout – at Night the Wind veered to NE & became cloudy.

7th Thursday – Snow nearly all night from the NE, & continued until 1 PM when the Sky became clear – & the Wind changed to the Southward (which before was at NE) light breezes – Snow fell last Night & this Day 4 Inches and $\frac{3}{10}$ – which is the largest fall of Snow by much – than we have had all the Winter – at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ AM got underway & went NNW 8 Miles & put up at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ PM – at the excellent spring of water where we did the 8th of December last – Found 8 Tents of Muddy river Indians here that arrived Yesterday – these parted from us at the Ee too ki up river about 10 Miles Southward of the Bad River – Burnt cow dung Yesterday & this Day – it is now rather difficult to find since the late heavy fall of Snow – & in cold weather, it makes but a very tolerable shift – Men running Buffalo & killed 4 – John Ward also ran one on horseback & killed it with a Gun – The Inds – intend making the best of their way for the Red Deers river, far below where we crossed it in going from the House

February 8th Friday at 9 ½ AM got underway – went along the Plain N 10 Miles & put up at 1 ¼ PM – no water here – melted Snow to make water for Cooking & Drinking – also Burnt cow Dung – Light breezes & variable Northerly – with small Snow falling until Noon – then cleared up – Snow fell this Day ½ of an Inch – Observed the Sun to Set S47°W – hence the Variation of the Compass is 19° ½ East – One Tent of Muddy river Indians joined us from the Eastward also the Cottona how Man & Family remains with. – fine level ground this Day

9th Saturday ~ at 9 ½ AM reassumed our Journey thro the Plain, went NNE 14 Miles & put up at 2 ½ PM – at a small creek but no water in it – Burnt Buffalo Dung as usual – The Men killed a few Buffalo – and John Ward also killed one – but the severity of the weather hindered them from hunting much Fresh breeze at SSE clear & very cold – with drift all Day – This is now the Time that in other places fine weather is expected – but we are only these few days past began to experience any bad cold winterly weather –

10th Sunday ~ at 8 ¾ AM got underway – went NNE 14 Miles & put up at 2 PM – at a small creek of good water – there is also here a few small Bushes of Sascuttom Willows – Men running the Buffalo & killed a few – The Calves in the Womb are now all well covered with hair – these slints all Indians are remarkably fond of even when not more than the size of a Quart Pot they eat them – The greater Part of the Cows the Indians now kill is merely for nothing else but for the calf – The Buffalo take the Bull in the Month of June & July & generally bring forth in April or May – & very seldom have above one at a time – Their hair is universally of a Dark colour approaching to black nearly – Tho there is some very rare exceptions, of a pure milk white, with generally curly hair – these the Inds are remarkably fond of (the Skin) & the price is generally 2 horses – & often more – when one of these great natural curiosities are seen the Inds never leave of the chase until they kill it – they are said to run much faster than the general kind of Buffalo – A Cow runs much faster & longer than a Bull of the same Age – Sometimes when wounded by running after them on horseback the animal will make a sudden spring towards the horse that carries the huntsman & often times will run their horns into the Horse & kill it upon the Spot – sometimes the Indian get killed also – & others may narrowly escape – which is by springing astraddle upon the Animals back & there remaining then until he either kills it with a knife – or until it is quite fatigued when he jumps of and runs away as fast as possible – Light Airs at North – clear weather – morning sharp –

February 11th Monday ~

Dehalt. 0.2 49° 4' 45"
Lat. 51° 29' 2" *+ 10.0*
49° 14' 45" *Thermometer 30.*

The Men running Buffalo & Wolves – & killed a few of each – Light breezes at SW & pretty clear –

12th Tuesday ~ at 10 AM we reassumed our Journey – went NNE 4 miles, then saw what these Indians call the South Eastern most end of the upper Beaver hills – in the Vicinity of the Saskatchewan river – which now bore NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W – also at the same time the Pyramid at the Rocky Mountain bears SW $\frac{1}{2}$ S – We then went NNE 2 Miles & put up at 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ AM – in the same Creek as on Sunday – but no water here in it – I suppose it to have been a small spring that caused the water we found on Sunday – altho the declivity of the creek lies the way we have come – & joins the Red Deers river – not far from this – a few small scrubs of the Sascutum & Cherry wood – where we put up the Northern bank of the creek is steep & a clayish white earth – along which there are two stratas of coal in a horizontal position, one of them being 28 feet below the level of the Surface – & the lower strata 34 feet – the former strata is about 60 Yards long & the lower one 100 Yards – both strata about 15 Inches thick – This is the only coal I have ever seen in the Earth in this manner in this Country – I brought some of this & put on the Tent fire – which burnt very well without any crackling noise – it is of an unctious soft nature – Something like Marle – The Chief being absent at the time in another Tent – & he having a particular aversion to coal being burnt in his Tent – when he came home – just as he was stepping into the Tent his Women told him what a heinous offence I had been doing by putting coal on the fire – he immediately returned without entering his own tent & remained out in another all Night – very much affronted – This made me more cautious afterwards – in not doing any thing that would arouse their Superstitious ideas – which at times are very whimsical – The Time we first saw the Bad river in December – I brought a Buffalo horn into his Tent & warmed it at the fire that I might the more easily make a Powder horn – This apparently slight affair – kept the chief from his own Tent the whole Night – & he gave me a very sulky severe reprimand for it – Men running Buffalo & killed a few Light airs from the West clear pleasant weather.

13th Wednesday ~ at 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ AM got underway, went NNE 2 Miles (the creek we left on our left hand) here we took our last view of the Rocky Mountain, the Land from hence to the Red Deers river declines all the way – we have always been in full view of the Mountain – Since the latter end of November last – We then went NNE 8 Miles & put up at 2 PM – about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from

February – the Red Deers river – Men ran Buffalo & killed a few – Jno Ward also killed one – Thermometer +30 these three Days past – Light Airs from the NW clear fine weather – The Buffalo are very numerous on the NE side the Red Deers river & near it they are also very near it – from the N to S the ground is entirely covered by them – & appears quite black – I never saw such amazing Numbers together before – I am sure there was some Millions in sight – as no ground could be seen for them in that compleat Semicircle & extending at least 10 Miles – we also put up close by the Coal creek this day – the Same we have encamped at these 3 times – A few small scrub pines in the Creek here, the first we have seen these many days past – we are now in the vicinity of Wood for firing & continues so all the way to the House –

14th Thursday ~ at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ AM got underway, went NE $\frac{3}{4}$ Mile & came to the Bank of the Red Deers river – which is very steep & bad about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long – crossed the river & put up at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ AM – at some large straggling Poplars – close at the edge of the river – Some of the Indians went down the Coal creek as I did – thinking that it would be easier going down it than the Bank of the river – but we found it much worse – it is both steep, deep & excessive bad – at the junction of the Creek with the river – The Banks of the creek was nearly perpendicular on the sides – composed first of a loose sandy earth of several feet thick – then a Strata of Solid rock from 6 to 8 Yards thick – then a loose Sandy earth below the rocks from 90 to 100 Yards deep which is upon a level with the river – I compute the height of the bank above the level of the river to be about 500 feet – when the creek joins the river – a large bed of excellent large Coal – of above 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick – but how much lower I could not determine by reason of the earth being fallen down & covered it up – Some coals was fallen down of above 36 Inches Square – in one Solid block – this is of a more hard Nature than what I saw before in this Creek – Several of these large blocks was laying just level with the river in the Mouth of the Creek – The upper surface of this thick strata of Coal lay in a horizontal direction – a few Pines growing in the Creek – No water runs here in the Summer nor winter only when the Snow in the Spring Melts – or the heavy rains fall in the Summer – This is only a running creek of water at those times – now there is not a drop of water in it – the width of the creek at the top is perhaps 2 or 300 Yards wide – & the strata is the same upon both sides – Light breezes at NE cloudy with a little Snow – Men running Buffalo & killed several – In the afternoon arrived at our Tents about 17 Blood Indian Young Men, who have been on a friendly visit to the Snake Indians – at present friends – The Snake Inds

February & their Neighbours the Crow Mountain Indians being at present at an inveterate war with each other – the former induced the 17 Blood Indian Men to accompany them to war against the Crow Mountain Indians – on account of their being all having Guns – they found 35 Men of that tribe – & melancholy to relate only 3 escaped to relate the horrid catastrophe to their country men – – The Spoils they took from the Slain was 2 Guns (Spanish) – 20 Swords – several Shields – Bows Arrows – Clothing &c &c – every man they scalped according to their wonted custom – 4 of which trophies of war was given amongst these 17 Blood Indian Young men as a sufficient recompence for their assisting in the above horrid affair – Tho it is natural to think that these Men by having all fire arms was the Principal cause of their Killing such a Number – & so very few escaping – had these Men not assisted, the opposite sides would have been armed exactly alike – & the event would probably not been so melancholy – before either one side or other ran for it – No Quarter is given by any Indians at War – These Men arrived with their faces all black with coal – their usual custom when they return from war at any Peoples Tents they find on their return – they also continue in this manner with black faces a few days after they arrive at their own Tents – Singing, Dancing & drumming the greater part of the Time at short intervals – This was now the case here – & our Indians joined the Chorus & carried the Scalps upon a stick in the Manner of a Flag & kept dancing & singing all the while – This they kept up the greater part of the Night – The Red Deers river here runs SbE true about 30 Miles & then falls into the Bad river – This account was given me by an Old Man which I found afterwards was not looked upon by his Countrymen to have All his faculties right – So I found afterward – that the Course is more Easterly – & above 3 times the Distance – This Course & Distance gives for the Confluence of this & the Bad river – Lat $51^{\circ}..12'$ & Long^{de} $112^{\circ}..37'$ – but the true situation is $50^{\circ}..55'$ & Long $110^{\circ}..1'$ – –

15th Friday ~

in D. Nat. Bell. 57-26.0

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Light breezes from the North, cloudy weather – with a Little Snow – Snow fell Yesterday & this Day not more than half a tenth of an Inch – Evening Clear – Some of the Men a hunting & killed many Buffalo – they are incredibly Numerous on this Side the river. –

February 16th Saturday at 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ am got underway & went up along the Red Deers river the following courses on the N side Viz NbW $\frac{3}{4}$ - NWbW 1 - near NW $\frac{3}{4}$ - WbN $\frac{1}{4}$ - NbW $\frac{1}{2}$ - NWbW $\frac{1}{2}$ - NWbN 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ & put up at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ - The banks of the River about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile apart & the river running in a serpentine course - sweeping the Steep banks on each side alternately - on the Projecting Points small hammocks of old Large Poplar The Blood Indian Men went away to join their countrymen to the Eastward - Light breezes at South overcast & fine - Buffalo very numerous near the river


17th Sunday Light Air & variable Westerly, overcast & pretty warm - Men running Buffalo & killed several - John Ward killed also 1 Cow - a Great flush of Water came down the Red Deers river Last Night - that ran with a pretty strong current over the Ice - This is occasioned by warm weather at the Mountain Melting the Snow there - There are now about 30 Tents of us Together - as several joined us on the 14th Inst that we left behind at the Edge of the Mountain - Some Blood Indian Tents our hunters discovered pretty near NNE -

18th Monday at 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ am resumed our Journey - went up the Red Deers River (or Pun nee kay sis saw taw) as before NNW $\frac{1}{2}$ - N $\frac{3}{4}$ - NWW $\frac{1}{2}$ NbW $\frac{1}{2}$ - N $\frac{1}{2}$ - W $\frac{1}{4}$ & put up at 1 Pm - on N side below the Bank as before very bad passing along the edge of the River - on account of the late overflowing being now froze up - Men on hunting & killed several - they are still very Plentiful on this Side - when the Men run the Buffalo they generally kill from 2 to 5 each - but this depends upon the Swiftess & Strength of the horse Light Air from the Southward, overcast with a gentle thaw Thermometer +34

19th Tuesday Fresh Gales at N W. Flying Clouds - Snow much deminished Thermometer +54 - Men on hunting as usual & killed many Buffalo.

20th Wednesday Fresh Gales at N. Flying Clouds - with a light Shower of Sleet in the forenoon - a gentle thaw in the afternoon - Snow nearly all gone Thermometer +42 - Great numbers of Buffalo came down the bank on this Side to cross over - about 2 miles below - when the Indians killed many of them - all the North Side of this river has been for these many days entirely covered with Buffalo - & not a single one to be seen on the other side until Numbers crossed over this Day - they have eat all the Grass up is the cause of their crossing - Two of our Young Men went away to some Blood Indians who are tenting pretty near - they are gone to solicit a little Tobacco from them As they have lately returned from the Houses in the Saskatchewan - our Inds have little remaining of this necessary luxury -

February 21st Thursday ~ Forepart of the Day light breezes, variable & rime - the afternoon a smart gale at N W - with small showers of Snow - Buffalo still as numerous as ever - on this side - what crosses over the river - others appears in their place from the Eastward - and appears as if all the Buffalo in the Country was collected in this place as a focus - All the Women very busily employed the whole Day making their red Paint to Paint their faces with - also to rub over their shoes - Stockings - Coats - & Robes - to prevent them when wet from afterward becoming hard - which it effectually prevents - when put on in a sufficient quantity ~ it is much like Raddle or coarse red oker - The earth it is made of is found here in the face of the high Steep banks above 300 feet below the surface of the level ground - it is Kneaded like dough & about that consistence, then formed into small round flat cakes of about 2 Inches thick & 6 or 8 in Diameter - this is baked in the hot fire about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour, when it is taken out as being burnt quite sufficient & suffered to cool - they then break it into smaller pieces & put it into bags for occasional use - before it is baked it has a Yellowish hue - In some places in the Bad River they say this particular sort of earth is to be found & not so far below the surface as here - The Men are also busily Employed making Arrows - of the Sascuttem wood, which is very hard & solid when dry - there is great Plenty of it here along the river under the Banks I found on this Side near the top of the Bank - a particular kind of Grass - very full of sharp prickles of 2 Inches long & the thickness of a Pin - which grew upon a wrinkled round flat knob of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch diameter, the Outer Skin has much the appearance of a Cucumber - & are

connected together in the following manner  some has 8 or 10 of these joined together & a single root only found under one at the end - they are very bad to walk amongst - running immediately thro the shoes usually worn here of dressed Leather - the Indians say that far to the Southward, about & beyond the Mis sis ou ry River, the Ground is almost covered with them for a Great distance, & so very large & form large bushes that at a Distance they have frequently been taken for Buffalo laid down - when on their War excursions - in these Parts - the only method they have to fortify their feet against these formidable & very bad things, they make shoes of the Raw hide of the Buffalo - which the prickles are not strong enough to Penetrate tho'. -

22nd Friday ~ Fresh Gales at NNE - middle of the Day Cloudy - morning & evening clear Sharp weather - a Few Gullies on this side the river has a little Pine in them -

February 23rd Saturday ~ at 10 ½ am, we got underway, left the Red Deers river & went up the Bank on N side, which was steep & bad - but not so much so as on the SW side where we first came to it - Went thro the Plain N 9 Miles & put up at 2 ½ Pm - in the bottom of a Creek - that falls into the Red Deers river - very little of any water in it - steep bank to go down into the Creek the way we came - The Woods edge appears from NWbN to N ½ E called the edge of the Upper Beaver hills - Small scrubs of Willows &c in this Creek - The Buffalo are still very numerous & the Indians running them on horseback & killed several - they are so plentiful that when the Indians run them they immediately fill up the place like waves in the Sea. The 2 Men who went to the Blood Indian Tents the 20th Inst returned with a very slender supply of Tobacco - altho these 2 Tribes speake exactly the same Language - & appear outwardly very friendly - they in their Hearts hate one another - Fresh breezes at SSW, clear sharp weather.

24th Sunday ~ A Gentle Thaw in the afternoon - cloudy with fresh breezes at NW - Men running Buffalo & Wolves & killed several - John Ward crawled along the Ground and approached them very near & killed 2 Good Cows - This is the manner usually practiced by the Europeans & Southern Indians.

25th Monday ~ A Few Tents left us they are going directly for the Houses to trade & I sent a letter to Mr Tomison at Buckingham house - where those Inds are going acquainting him that we was both well - & where we are - & that we should be near the House about the 20th of next Month - The Chief dispatched 1 Young man to several Tents of these Indians towards the NNW - & to acquaint them of his intention of going to the House in 20 Days more - & if they mean to go there, they will join us. - Fresh breezes at NNW - cloudy & rather cold.

26th Tuesday ~ Fresh Gales at the Northward, pretty clear - sharp weather - The Young Man returned that went to acquaint Indians Yesterday of our departure for the house - he says that the Buffalo is plentiful there - & that those Inds have lately heard from a Band of Stone Indians [Assiniboine] - to the Eastward & say that no buffalo is near them & that they have been under the necessity to eat several of their Horses to keep themselves from dying of hunger - The Grass mostly all burnt the last pitching from the Red Deers river to this Creek where we are at present at - Men running Wolves & killed Several - the time is now approaching near when we are to go for the House - & as many of the Inds have very slender Trades at present - This makes them now more industrious for killing Skins - than they have been all winter ~

February 27th Wednesday ~ D. M. alt. O L L 59..38..0 Lat: 51..55..53 + 10..0 59..48..0

Wednesday D. M. alt. O L L 59..38..0
 Lat: 51..55..53 $\frac{+ 10..0}{59..48..0}$ Thermometer 39
 Set the Watch back 10' as also the regulator $\frac{1}{6}^{\circ}$

at 3 1/2 Pm
 Ther. 45

D. M. alt. O L L
 { 32..53..0 Sun bore S 33 1/2 W
 26.0 ----- 34 1/2
 6.0 ----- 35
 32..20..20
 + 10..0
 32..30..20

S 34.20 W Variation 18.2 Easterly

Thermometer +39 Set the Watch back 10' as also the regulator $\frac{1}{6}^{\circ}$. Sun bore S 33 1/2 W Ther. +45 Variation 18.2 Easterly

Light breezes at WSW, rather cloudy, morning sharp - afternoon quite warm - Men running Buffalo & Wolves & killed several of each -

28th Thursday ~ at 11 1/4 am resumed our Journey went NbE 10 Miles & put up at 2 1/4 Pm - at several small hammocks of small asp & willows - a Good deal of small woods to be seen Westward - but none to the Eastward - only extensive open level plains without a single Tree to inliven the Prospect - however in this direction that we are now going the woods edge may be said to commence here we found here a Few Tents of Muddy river Indians who left us the 15th of last Month - we also left behind us this Morning 8 Tents who had not dried & stretched their wolf skins they will come on after us Tomorrow - all these Slave Indians Stretch their Wolves betwixt two Tent Poles A small hill in the Plain bearing from here - ESE 1/2 E about 14 Miles called by these Inds. A mok wa cut tow too can or the Ground Squirrel Hill - also another long range of hill bears from this the Eastern most end SEbE the Western most SE 1/2 S about 40 Miles off - this is called the Oochis chis or the Hand - being seen a long way off & directs the Indians thro these extensive Plains - behind this hill at a Good distance the Red Deers & Bad river join - no wood this Pitching except where we put up - & very unelevel ground the latter half of our march this day - being in small hill & vallies - Oochis chis Wt most end Lat: 51°. 27' 1/2 & Long 112°. 13' 1/2 W Light Air at SE, pretty clear, with a smart thaw in the afternoon. In the Evening all the Young Men had a sham fight - with their Shields on - & using only bluff headed arrows - they formed into two equal parties & went thro all the evolutions of the Indian art of open attack, with great dexterity, the Principal Point is to move the Shield about: which hang by a thong on the left side, so as to always oppose the flight of the arrow that is aimed directly at them - a quick eye is also another indispensable thing to mark the arrows flight when coming towards them - sometimes they stand upright - & very often on their Knees - when the Shield covers them intirely - They have also much to guard against any oblique assaults - when one is attacked upon diff quarters, he seldom escapes being hit.

March 1st Friday ~ at 9 ½ am got underway, went NE 5 Miles & put up at 11 ¼ am here we found a Few Tents of Blood Indians who have been here a good while ~ Also found a few Tents of Muddy river Indians, here, who left us the 15th of January - The Blood Indians invited John Ward & self into several of their Tents - & gave us some of the very best meat they had ~ this kindness of theirs lasted no longer than they found out that we had very little Tobacco to give them - altho I had more than 5 ft of small roll Tobacco which I might have easily disposed off for 30 MB - but on account of their selfishness I kept it a secret from them - This is generally the case with all Indians, with the Europeans - while they keep continually giving them Tobacco or any other articles they will pay very great attention to them - but when those things are all spent - their former kindness immediately drops of - their maxim is no longer pipe no longer dance. We are also rather dubious of their stealing our Horses - but as we are the Stronger party I hope they will not attempt any thing of the Kind - Fresh breezes at NW - with a smart thaw all day - very little wood here

2nd Saturday ~

day ~ *Alt. 61° 32' 30"*
Lat 52° 7' 7" *+ 10" 0"*
 61° 42' 30" *Thermometer 37*

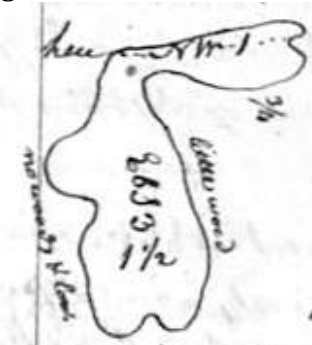
Light breezes from the Northward - pretty clear - pleasant weather - Those 8 Tents we left 28th Feby. Joined us - Last Night arrived 4 Men at our Tents they have come from their Tents at Spitcheyee & have slept 6 Nights in coming here - these men tells the following Particulars - That 5 Young Men of these Inds had been at the Snake Inds on a friendly visit - That the Snake Indians induced these 5 Men to accompany them to war against the Crow Mountain Indians & that in the Action one of these men received the shot of an arrow from the Enemy in one of his Eyes - which proved the cause of his death in a Few days after - 3 returned back to the Muddy river Indians - & the other one remaining along with the Snake Inds to acquire their Language - & that he is expected to return in May or June next along with some Snake Indians - there was none killed or taken Prisoners on either side, but was both in the same mind to retreat - they also say that the Cotton ahows whom we left at the Mountain to return to their own Country still remained at a Pound along with some of our Indians about 10 Miles South farther than where we was with our Tents - when we went to the Kaw he ooch e ta cote river - & that the Snow that was expected as Present had not arrived 10 Days before these 2 men came off - They say that a Few Tents of Muddy river Indians are Tenting betwixt the head of the Bad river & the Devils head

March - near the Mountain - & that they had built a Pound for Sheep - & that they had got 30 into it & killed when they heard the last news from that Place - a Band of Blood Indians are expected daily to return from the House who went there to Trade some time ago -

3rd Sunday ~ Light breezes at NW. Clear fine weather.

4th Monday ~ Smart Gales at SE. overcast & clear alternately - Night cloudy & Calm The Indians are making things in readiness to set away for the Houses tomorrow & to leave their Tents & Families here until their return - they say that we Shall be 9 Nights before we arrive there - at Dusk in the Evening those Blood Indians arrived here from the House who had been to trade - they also say that they was very well used & traded with in far more a liberal manner - than those that was there before - this news pleased much our Inds - who are going there ~ but is a general thing - when Inds come to a House & has very Few Skins to Trade - unless much is given to them as presents they are dissatisfied - unless they have all their necessaries - whether or not they have little or much Trade - these Men brot a little Liquor with them which was all very soon Drank amongst a many Men - Men running Buffalo Heifers & killed several - **5th Tuesday** ~ a Heavy Snow all last Night from the ENE with light breezes Snow fell at this time 3 1/10 Inchs continued Snowing easily till Noon - afternoon More favourable & the Sun shone a little ~ We did not set off for the House owing to the fall of Snow - & the coldness of the Weather - In the evening a Few more Blood Indians arrived here from the House

6th Wednesday ~ at 11 3/4 am got underway for the House - the Men left here their Tents & families as usual - generally only one Woman accompanying her husband with small old Tents that holds 5 or 6 Families these they carry for lightness when they go to the Houses - here is Plenty of Buffalo here & good grass for the Horses - We went NbE 7 Miles & came to a small Lake - low sides - not deep - as here



NW 1 EbS 3 1 1/2 little wood no woods & cows

then NW 2 & came to 12 Tents of Blood Indians who has been here at a Pound all winter & is now nearly full of putrified carcasses of Buffalo - put up here at 5 1/4 Pm - This Pound is made of wood all round about 25 Yards square - Small hammocks of asp & willows most part of this Pitching where we put up formerly an old Buffalo Pound here called Oo che pay e pis con - or the Willow Pound - Light breezes at North, pretty clear Afternoon cloudy & sharp - No wood to be seen to the Eastward - we now keep just along the very edge of the Woods

March 7th Thursday Heavy Gales at SE, overcast with a little Snow - very cold & much drift - evening more favourable - did not move, owing to the bad weather

8th Friday ~ at 9 $\frac{1}{3}$ am resumed our Journey, went NbE 5 Miles - the South end of the Buffalo Lake bearing WSW $\frac{1}{4}$ W & the North end NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W the former about 7 Miles & the latter about 12 Miles off - this is the course & Distance assigned by the Indians - I could not see the Lake myself as there is a small hill running along the ESE side of the Lake - then went NbE 9 Miles & put up at 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pm at some small hammocks of asp - here we found 17 Tents of Blood Indians they have been residing here some time - for the first 3 Miles in the Morning a few small hammocks of asp & Willows - & all the remainder of the Day no wood except along the East Part of the Buffalo Lake - at the NNE corner of this Lake a small hill called the Buffalo head [Boss hill] - a small creek Runs out of this Lake into the Red Deers river [Tail Creek] - this Lake is pretty deep - with Pike fish in it. Where we put up a deep creek with a few solitary Pines in it - where the Blood Indians drove the Buffalo into; - a small Buffalo Pound here of wood, but they only got one single Bull into it - Smart Gales at NW Clear & cloudy alternately morning sharp - afternoon a gentle thaw - the Plain hereabouts lately burnt - Men on hunting & killed a few Buffalo -

9th Saturday ~ at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ am got underway went, that is crossed the creek & then NWbN 8 Miles & crossed another small creek that falls into the Battle river about 2 Miles lower down on the Right running ESE a few pines in it about 1 Mile below where we crossed it 2 Steep banks on both sides of the creek which is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile apart - then went NWbN 1 & put up at 1 Pm - & found here 25 Tents of Blood Indians - who have been here a long while at a Pound - the way we have come this day no wood to speak off - until we crossed the Creek then Several Hammocks of Asp & Willows James Gaddy has passed about 3 or 4 Miles to the Eastward 3 times on his way from Manchester House towards the Stony Mountain - where we come from this Morning - Snow fell 1/10 Inch - Fresh Gales at NNW: & cold, mornng light Snow - latter part more warm & less wind. The Lower end of the Buffalo Lake by the Indian account is about 6 or 7 Miles off SWbW. - it is about 5 or 6 Miles wide -

10th Sunday ~ at 9 $\frac{1}{3}$ am got underway, went NEbN 5 & put up at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Am at the Battle or Fighting river, here it is only about 8 Yards wide, with little water or current in it - this runs thro a Lake Called Ki hum onco or Bears Lake [Dried Meat Lake] about NW 10 Miles off - it is about 4 or 5 Miles Long this is from the report of the Indians as I had no opportunity of seeing it myself - A few pretty good hammocks of Pine at the river - steep

March banks along the river & high upon both sides, & a great quantity of small Red Stones - much resembling burnt bricks ~ the Land appears here to be pretty well wooded to the Eastward - which has not been so more Southerly - a Few Blood Indians joined us - that are going to accompany us to the House. -

Dehalt 22 66. 46. 30
Lat 52. 36. 24 + 10. 0
66. 56. 30 *Thermometer 45.*

Variation of the Compass 18° East taken at Noon - Fresh breezes at WSW Flying Showers of Sleet - morning gloomy - afternoon clear.

11th Monday ~ Heavy Rain from 10 Pm until near day light, with Fresh Gales at NNW at 9 am we resumed our Journey - went up the bank of the Battle river on N side, which is pretty steep then NEbN 11 Miles & put up at 1 ½ Pm - Grass all burnt - very little wood - but rather more the latter part of the Pitching - Men ran & killed a Few Bulls - No cows to be seen the Blood Indians having been remaining near here the greater Part of the Winter & has drove them away - Light breezes at NNW in the afternoon - but the Forepart a Stiff Gale - a Smart thaw -

12th Tuesday ~ at 7 ¼ am got underway, went NEbN 13 Miles & put up at 12 ¼ Less wood the latter part than the forepart of the pitching - Grass all burnt as before - Light breezes at SW - hazy weather, with a smart thaw -

13th Wednesday ~ at 6 ¼ am got underway NEbN 9 Miles, across a Plain that we put up last Night at the edge of - & put up at 9 ½ am - at a Few small hammocks of asp & willows - it is Stony Land here - & called so by these Indians - Oo cut tux - the NW end of this plain we have now crossed extends from 25 to 30 Miles - where the edge of the Woods appear - not any wood to be seen Eastward - the Plain is low ground - & where we put up a Gentle ascent & forms a Kind of small hill - Grass all burnt as before, which is very bad for the Horses - as there is only here & there a tuft or two of Grass that has escaped the fire - Men killed a Few Cows - Grass on fire to the South ward which the Indians imagine is where we left the Tents & Families - In the Evening 2 Swans was seen Flying to the Northward - the first we have seen this Year - this is also rather earlier than usual. Light breezes at South Forepart hazy & rather cold - latter part clear & hot -

Dehalt 22 69. 30. 0
Lat 52. 55. 23 + 10. 0
69. 40. 0 *Thermometer 52.*

Indians busy making Sweating Houses - Sweating themselves & then immediately Plunging over head in some standing pools of just melted Snow - which is not above 3° above the freezing Point - This is usual with these People

March 14th Thursday ~ at 6 ½ am we resumed our Journey towards Buckingham House - went N 14 Miles & put up at 1 Pm - very little wood the first 5 Miles the remainder several small hammocks of asp & willows - also passed a great number of very small Lakes or rather Ponds - the Ground very uneven - all small round knobs & vallies - Grass all burnt as before - a Buffalo Pound near where we put up the Sussew Indians had lately left - the Pound was full of Dead Buffalo - & our Indians ran wolves here & killed a good number - they also killed a Few Bulls - Smart breezes at NW with a variety of cold winterly weather

15th Friday ~ at 7 am got underway, went NNE 15 Miles & put up at 2 Pm. about 6 Miles after we got of in the morning passed over a low valley that lays SEbE & NWbW - quite full of a chain of small Lakes that runs Westerly - very uneven ground as Yesterday - being a continued series of small hills of not more than 40 Yards over with deep intervening vallies - Grass burnt as before - The Men killed a Few Buffalo - Light breezes at NW & rather sharp with small showers of Snow in the afternoon - morning Clear.

March 15th 40° 25' 30" 1
Apr 53° 10' 32" + 10° 0" Thermometer 9
40° 35' 30"

16th Saturday ~ at 8 ¼ am got underway, went NEbN 5 Miles & crossed a small Creek running SE - The Grass burnt all the way betwixt the Battle river & this Creek - then went NEbN 2 & crossed a pretty large creek with pretty good current running SE - then went NEbN 1 Mile & put up at Noon where there is plenty of good grass which the Horses very much needs also wood, altho small - Crossed over a Valley or low piece of Land with very little wood in it - surrounded with a ridge of small hills all round it. - at 1 ½ Pm those Indians joined us that took a letter from me to Mr Tomison, they have been at the House - they brought me a letter from Mr Tomison, with 2 fathoms of Tobacco, which was very acceptable at this time, the Indians having very little or any left, but what they cultivate themselves - but the European Tobacco they Prefer much more than their own - The Indians had some Liquor with them & all the Inds got Drunk very soon - those Inds that trade at our House I Distributed the Principal Part of the Tobacco - which they was highly pleased at - Fresh breezes at SSE & sharp - afternoon less wind & thawed.

17th Sunday ~ at day light all the Indians that arrived here Yesterday from the House set off to join their Wives & Families they left behind towards the Red Deers river - at 7 am began to Snow & continued without intermission in till Noon - then heavy rain till 2 Pm - & showery the remainder of the Day - Six Tents of Black foot Indians Joined us on their way to the House at 8 am - Light breezes at NNE.

March 18th Monday ~ at 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ am got underway in company with the Black feet Inds went NE 3 Miles - The Big hill bears E $\frac{3}{4}$ S 16 Miles, which is reckoned 5 Pitchings from Manchester House - it is a round Hill - little or no wood on it - then went NE 7 Miles & put up at 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ am -

n. D. Nath 321. 71. 24. 0
Lat. 53. 20. 51 *+ 5. 50* *71. 29. 50* *24. 10*

The horse that carried my box containing my Instrument, took fright & galloped away a good distance, broke the Sledge to pieces - shook the Sextant from an Error of 10" to 5'. 50" - but fortunately has not any other ways deranged it - The Thermometer was also very much shaken - that the Spirits divided into 3 parts - but by heating it at the fire until the Tube was filled to the Top - & suddenly putting it into Snow, it regained its usual standard - Our road this Day pretty thicketty of Small Asp & willows - with several small open plains - one Mile before we put up Passed a Tent place where canadian free men have been remaining at all Winter, hunting for themselves - but now lately removed a little distance Westerly - as no Buffalo is near here - Light breezes at South with flying showers of hail, in the afternoon Thunder (which is very early in the Year in these Parts) & a pretty smart thaw - The Black feet Indians went ahead.

19th Tuesday ~ all the way we approach the House nearer a great deal more Snow we find on the Ground - at 7 am got underway, went NbE 3 Miles & crossed the Painted river which is not above 3 Yards wide here & little water, which falls into the Saskatchewan river about 28 Miles below Buckingham House - then NbE 8 Miles & first saw the SE end of the Moose Hill bearing N - then went N 4 Miles & put up at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pm - Grass burnt in several Places - ground very uneven as before - interspersed with small hammocks of small asp & Willows the latter Part quite thicketty - remained at the Tents until 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm when Myself & the Young Indian Men accompanied me to the House - they go according to custom for Tobacco to meet the Chiefs with before they arrive at the House John Ward remains behind to take care of our Horses & Skins - & will accompany the Chiefs to the House tomorrow - we went NNE 4 Miles & came to the swampy Lake mentioned in my 2^d Days Journey from the House & West Part - then followed our old Track as before Viz - NWbN 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - WNW 3 & down the Bank NbE 2 & arrived at the Saskatchewan river & Buckingham House at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm - & found all well there - Fresh breezes at ENE - pretty cold inclinable to Snow. -

20th Wednesday ~ at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pm John Ward & all the Indians arrived at the House - Thus Ends our Journey to the Rocky Mountain - The Indians during our whole stay with them treated us in a very hospitable and friendly manner - tho' we were near 5 Months with Them - Light breezes at Eastward - overcast & cold -