

Safford.

June 26. 73.

Acc. 976

Dear Maamma

I received a letter from
Papa & one from Rankine yesterday.
I am also continually in receipt of
papers &c for which many thanks. I
have not heard from Anna for some
time save through you.

Last night was the worst night for
mosquitoes which we have yet experienced
here. It was very close & sultry all day
yesterday with thunder storms rolling all
round but none coming directly over
us to cool the air. It was still 83°

When I went to bed & the mosquitoes
filled the house & keeping up a hummy
like a hive of bees. I lit a tremendous
Sundage in my room which temporarily
stupified them, but they soon recovered
again & began yelling round my
mosquito net, & straining themselves through
according to Siger, which proceeding they
kept up all night. Hardly anyone slept
till near morning some were wandering
about the house lighting Sundages & some
wandering about out doors for the sake
of coolness. Harkamer in charge of
the commensal is a nervous
veritable Sat of yellow & it was great
fun to hear him roving about. First
he tried going to bed twice, but unsuccessfully
Then he got a Sundage & tried lying

out on the balcony. Finally he crept
in under Wards bed under the protection?
of his mosquito net; & the pair of them
spent the remainder of the night in
eccecrating the mosquitoes.

They bother the horses very much at night;
& they are glad to gather up in the sheltering
smoke of any fire to get rid of their
brimstones. The other day one of the sundruges
for the horses set fire to a lot of straw
in which they were standing, & before
the horses could be removed one of them
was quite badly burned & has been on the
sick list ever since.

Last week I made an excursion
to a point 13 miles E. of here for the
purpose of examining some limestone
which was reported to exist there.

Dr Burgess having nothing particular to do at the time came with me & we had on the whole quite a pleasant excursion though the start was unpropitious.

To begin with there were no suitable scows for crossing the cart & horses, so eventually after waiting some time for a thunder storm to pass off, we loaded the stuff in a boat & floated the empty Red R. Cart over behind. The further bank was nearly knee deep in tenacious mud & we had quite a job getting the things carried up to firm ground & put in the cart, especially as it began to rain again very heavily & thunder. The two horses were then swum over behind the boat & safely landed, after

one of them had been extricated with difficulty from the mud at the landing.

We then went ahead & explored a way for the cart through the bushes to the open prairie, & then after wading about a mile through knee deep wet grass got to a comparatively dry knoll & camped for the night. Next morning we got off by five & steered as straight a course as we could to the S.E. through clumps of bushes & small poplars. After about 3 miles we struck the line, along which a trail goes out, & almost immediately descended the banks of the Joe R. as it is called though in reality more a brook than a river.

The water in crossing just came up level with the floor of the cart & the stupid little horse that was pulling balked from the other bank & turned the cart lengthways in the

Stream. We then had to unload the
cart & throw the things ashore, get out the
horse & pull the cart out with a rope.
After ascending the E bank of the river
we saw before us a great level prairie
with only here & there a little clump of
bushes to break the monotony. We got on
several miles very well & then got to
the edge of a great-grassy swamp which
the parties had formerly crossed when frozen
over. The horse in the cart got mired as
usual & had to be extracted & the cart
hauled out. We then lay down for a
rest on a dry knoll & I sent Spearman
ahead on my horse (which I had not been
riding as I was collecting plants) to
reconnoitre. He came back after a

while to say that the Swamps got worse
in front & was several miles across, also
that it was worse to the South. I then sent
him north & he found a practicable track
thru by ferry about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. of the
line. We started again after having had
some lunch; & walked about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles
half the time through water ankle deep, &
long grass, before again coming to dry ground.
We found just a number of new plants.
Finally we got on a good road again
& after gaining the top of the 13 mile ridge, or
second prairie level camped where we
found two Indians resting who said
there was plenty of water near. The
Indians went away East almost
immediately, one riding & the other driving
a country cart; & when we came to look

for water we could find nothing but
a stagnant pool in the grass. However
by digging a hole we got some very good
cool water.

We spent the next day on the ridge &
saw plenty of boulders of gneiss & also
of limestone, but no rock in place.
The Kilm we also found & ascertained
that ~~the~~ lime was got altogether from
the boulders. The limestone was peculiar
looking white or cream coloured & I got
some good fossils out of it - which may
help to recognize it - if I ever see it - in
place. Prairie Chickens were very abundant
& Duckworth shot several which we found
very good, as our beef had all gone bad
we had nothing but a ham to fall back
on. One of our horses tormented by

near Wpg
Mosquitos broke loose & got away
the night of our arrival & it took
the teamster all the next day to find
him & bring him back.

New York
Critic

The next morning we started on the
return of the boat in quite safety by 4 o'clock
in the afternoon.

Tomorrow I start with two carts,
two teamsters, Spearman my servant,
& Duckworth for the N-W Angle Lake &
Woods. I shall have to go via Jarry
& the whole distance is about 175 miles
which at the rate the carts travel will
take about 10 days. On arriving at
the Angle I will send back the carts &
teamsters, my horse, hire two medium
Sized canoes & Indians to paddle &

begin exploring the Lake. First I
am to join the party of a Mr East-
who is surveying there & then so where I
like providing that I return to the
N.W. angle on or before the last of July.
I am getting things packed & put in order
today & it is quite surprising
what a bother it is to think what
will be needed & what such & such will
weigh.

The conveyance is gone to the post-
& so I must close.

Yours affly devoted son

George