

Woody Mt. June 24/74.

My Dear Maamma

The train of oxen which have brought our supplies thus far set out for Dufferin again in a day or two & as I leave here tomorrow, it seems a chance to send a few lines before going further west. If all goes well this letter should get to Dufferin in about thirty days & you may get it about the first week of August.

There is nothing in particular it is true to write about. We arrived here the day before yesterday after a journey of ten days from Wood End, a distance of 182 miles. We had heard that there was no wood whatever on the road & so had

though for that period along with us.
As it turned out however we found
some wood in a gully near the road
on the seventh day out. The road is
very hilly as it passes over Coteau for
a good part of its length. There are however
a good many swamps & low places with
good grass for the cattle. Many of the lakes &
ponds are saline & the shores white from
deposited salts.

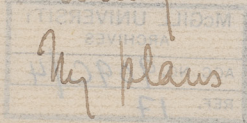
Woody but. settlement consists of a few
clay covered log shanties lying in a valley
among hills, & beside a small stream which
is pretty thickly fringed with fair sized poplar
trees. It forms a little oasis in the general
woodless expanse. There are only two or
three families here now, the rest being
"out on the plains" hunting. The best days of
Woody but. are however already past,
it is not far enough west & the half-
breeds talk of wintering now at the

Cypress Hills to be nearer to the Indians
to the buffalo. The so called settlers do
not cultivate the ground at all but
content themselves with the products of
the chase. They own a good many horses,
or some oxen. The latter they picked up
as wild oxen on the plains, being parts of
herds which have escaped from drovers
at the American forts to the South.

One of the astronomical parties the other
day fell in with some of these wild
oxen & after a long chase killed one,
which made for them a very acceptable
change from the usual diet of salt-
pork. Crompton with some of the

Scouts also killed a buffalo a few miles
from here before we came up & several
Antelopes have been shot & a great
many shot at.

My plans are not yet much in advance.



Tomorrow I go down with various
others to Capt Featherstones Camp on the
line, & intend to stay there for a day or
two as the locality may interest or not.
Then to go west to the next Depot a
Site for which has been chosen some
sixty miles in advance, & so dodge
along from one Camp to another taking
advantage of opportunities to go over as
much ground as possible.

With Love to all

Your affectionate Son

Serge

P.S. I should tell you that I find the
air pillow a great convenience.

