

End of page 339.

How Stumbling Bear killed the Watch.

Darkness of Indian Conscience

While making my camp home in one of Stumbling Bears lodges, he became much interested in my watch, frequently asking for it and upon receiving it would examine ~~the~~ its exterior very minutely, watch the movement of the hands (as it was open faced) listen to tis ticking and without being able to comprehend the mystery of the movement of its hands and its continual ticking would return it. This was continued day after day for weeks. One day while we were in the lodge by ourselves he spent more than his usual time in studying over it and upon returning it to me explained "Sunēdy hi'e-gat-toh!" (Little understand) "Hō'-ny-en-hī'-e-goh'e-tah!" (No understand big) meaning that while he understood it a little, there was much about it he did not understand. Then he went on to explain how it was he had been so much interested in it. He said many years ago while in Texas on a raiding expedition he killed a man and while examining his person he found something like my watch - only it was yellow and both sides alike - all shut up close. It had a fine yellow chain - not brass - which went around his neck - all very beautiful- as he looked at it he loved it. "I took him and put him round my neck so he hang on my breast, I much love him Bime bie I hear something say tick-tick tick-tick very low - I look all about to see what it was - I look on blanket - on saddle - on horse - but could not see anything. I keep hearing that low 'tick-tick tick-tick' - I get off my horse and look all about - no find anything. I listen closer, could it be possible - it came from that yellow thing on my breast - I love so much.