

4th Mo 1874

dinner at the base of Sah-nā'-cops (Rattle Snake Mountain) where we found some pure sweet water issuing from its rocky base, I had been long anxious to ascend this, the most elevated of the Western Wichitas but was now too much fatigued to make the attempt & was but too glad to arrive at the camp on the West branch of Rainy Mountain Creek. Kicking Bird had talked so sharp to the Comanches, that yesterday they started out & to day brought in two of his best ponies leaving one yet to be accounted for.

Uncle Joe as he is called (the old Kiowa whom Kicking Bird had sent to the Agent with his letter also returned to day with a letter from the Agent, which I read & explained to them. Being very tired & lame from my journey on horseback I retired to my ambulance, shaved &c, soon Kicking Bird came in & sat down for a talk. The Comanches continue to harrass him, by following him & camping close around him so that their immense herds of ponies soon eat up the grass & he is compelled to move & then they follow him, steal his ponies &c, while the Penutetkas & Nokones (both Comanches) & Apaches are upon the best land near the Agency, except on the East, where he would be particularly exposed to the Texas horse thieves, & Mexican whiskey dealers, so that he does not know what to do. They are now (that is the Comanche Chiefs) using their best endeavors by talking to get the Kiowas to join them & go into Texas not on a raid but to have a big fight with the soldiers he says there are four of the Comanche