

dispositions,—then considering the amount of stolen property he has recovered, the number of captives he has redeemed,* and the general quiet which now prevails,—it cannot be denied that a marked degree of success has attended his administration.

In the simple matter of the recovery of captives, easy as it may appear, to an observer at a distance, for the agent to sit quietly in his office and receive at the hand of a chief, captives as they are brought in at his demand, the practical working of the concern is a very different affair. From my knowledge of facts in connection with the recovery of those captives who have been redeemed since my coming within the limits of this Agency, it has been attended with unwearied exertion, and required, on the part of the agent, skilful management, together with an endowment of something more than mere human wisdom to accomplish.

Especially has this been the case in the recovery of the Mexican captives, eleven of whom have been brought in only upon condition that they should be at liberty to return with the Indians if they expressed a desire to do so.

In some instances the lives of the captives have been threatened; ten or fifteen young warriors have accompanied them to the office, apparently to carry their threat into execution if they expressed their preference to remain with the agent, or to go to their relatives. Various

* He has delivered eighteen captives and one hundred and sixty-four horses and mules within the last eight months.

schemes have been resorted to to deceive the agent into the belief that there were no more captives among them; but he has been favored with wisdom to detect them, so that it is now believed that all the captives who have not been adopted into the tribes, and have families around them, have been given into the hands of the agent. Perhaps I can illustrate the difficulties of this undertaking in no better way than by narrating the case of

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~~LE~~VANDO GONZALES,

a Mexican boy, aged about sixteen years, which came particularly under my own observation.

The Indians had, as on previous occasions, denied having any more captives; but the agent, obtaining reliable information that there was at least one more, made the demand for him. He was brought in, in the evening, dressed as a young warrior, highly decorated with ornaments, accompanied by one or two chiefs and a party of fifteen or twenty young Comanche braves, the latter evidently for the purpose of intimidating him, and thereby secure his return with them, they being the very class whom he would have most reason to fear. He was placed in the middle of the office, while the others were seated around; and in reply to the question put to him by one of the chiefs, whether he would prefer to go back with them to staying with the agent (whom he had never before seen), answered he would return with them. Though the agent was sensible that the Indians