

CHAPTER IX.

COUNCIL. — THOMAS WISTAR'S LABORS. — MEXICAN AND WIFE. — CHANGE OF INTENTIONS RESPECTING RELEASE OF SATANTA. — LETTER TO THE AGENT. — LETTER FROM WASHINGTON. — ARRIVAL OF COMANCHE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. — CAPTAIN MCCLERMONT.

A PORTION of the executive committee having come to the Agency, a council was called on the 30th, in which Thomas Wistar was principal speaker. Alluding, in his speech, to his old age, and his long-continued labors for the Indians, he stated that over fifty years ago he visited the Indians in the south. Then there were thousands of Indians there — Creeks, Choctaws, Cherokees, Seminoles, &c.; now there are no Indians there, but thousands and millions of white people. He afterwards visited the Six Nations, in the north; there were the Mohawks, the Senecas, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Cayugas, and other tribes by thousands; now there is but a little handful of Indians there, but in their place are thousands and millions of white people. He afterwards visited the west, where St. Louis now is, saw the Indians there; but they are now gone

from thence, and the towns and cities of the white people are there instead. Now, he had come here to tell these Indians why this has been so, in order that they might continue in their country forever. It is because the Indians of those countries would not work; they lived by the chase, and when the buffalo, the deer, and the antelope were gone, their old way of life would not afford them a subsistence. The white man finds his subsistence in the soil, but he has to work to get it out; and the Indian, would he but do the same, might continue in his country forever.

Late last evening, a Mexican man and his wife, who were captured when they were but children, and always held as slaves by the Comanches, came to the Agency for protection.

Perhaps a year since, the Comanches were about to kill the woman, and they ran away from them, and went for protection to J. Chandler, who took care of them while he lived. But, about two months ago, their retreat was made known to the Comanches by a white man, and a party proceeded to the widow Chandler's, for the purpose of killing them, or taking them back into captivity. They belonged to a brother of Tabananika, a Comanche chief. The widow Chandler, who was herself a Mexican captive, — having been stolen and brought up among the Comanches, — secreted them under the floor of her house, where they were discovered; but, as the Indians knew not how to get at them, they were willing to make a compromise with her, to the effect