

turn Satanta and Big Tree at or about the time specified by Beede in his council two months since, they can put no further confidence in the white man's word, and that they are waiting to see the fulfilment of that agreement before settling down; that, if they are delivered up, they will settle down, raise corn, send their children to school, and do just as their Great Father at Washington wants them to; provided they can have a school-house away from the military post.

Thy friend, respectfully,

THOMAS C. BATTEY,  
*Teacher in Kiowa Camp.*

After about five or six weeks, the agent received the following communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which, as it refers directly to the foregoing letter, and, by being translated to the Indians, gave them the idea that the renewed action of government in relation to the release of their imprisoned chiefs was mainly owing to the information contained in it, thereby giving me an influence not before possessed, though somewhat out of place, I may be excusable for transcribing it in these pages.

*Department of the Interior. — Office of Indian Affairs.*

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
June 26, 1873.

SIR: Referring to the letter addressed to you by Thomas C. Battey, teacher in Kiowa Camp, relative to the compliance of the Kiowas with their promises, their

friendly attitude towards the government, their efforts to restrain hostile Indians from raiding, &c., and their anxiety for the return of Satanta and Big Tree, I have to inform you, by direction of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, that the government is now engaged in the necessary steps to consummate the release of those prisoners, and their return to their tribe at an early day; and also that you will inform the Kiowas that all necessary measures are being taken to that end which are in the power of the department; but that the final decision rests with the governor of Texas, who is expected to visit Washington in a few days, when the subject of [their] release will be urged upon him, and it is confidently expected that the chiefs will be set at liberty.

Very respectfully, &c.,

ED. P. SMITH,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

JAS. M. HAWORTH, *U. S. Ind. Agt.*

6th Month, 10th. — This day arrived the Comanche women and children captured by Colonel McKenzie last fall, and held as prisoners in Texas since that time. Some two months ago, orders were issued for their release, of which the Indians were notified. Since then, no tidings had been heard from them, and the Indians were getting restless and uneasy, which was in no wise diminished by the inability of the agent to give them any information respecting the captives. Day after day, and week after week, passing by, and still no tidings, their faith as well as patience was well nigh exhausted, and they were ap-