

CHAPTER XIII

SATANTA AND BIG TREE. — COUNCIL. — DEMAND FOR FIVE RAIDING COMANCHES. — COMANCHES REFUSE COMPLIANCE. — AGREE TO JOIN A PARTY OF SOLDIERS AND GO INTO TEXAS. — COMANCHE HORSES STOLEN BY WHITES FROM TEXAS. — JOURNEY TO KIOWA CAMP. — MEDICINE. — CONSTERNATION IN CAMP. — TELEGRAM RENEWING DEMAND FOR FIVE COMANCHE MEN.

SATANTA, concerning whom much has been said, and whose name has often occurred in these pages, was perhaps the most influential of the Kiowa chiefs, a notorious raider and a great lover of whiskey, but not without good qualities and marked ability.

His name is a corrupt pronunciation by the whites of See-tī-toh (White Bear), but eventually became adopted by the Kiowas themselves.

He was taken prisoner in 1869, but released by General Sheridan at the place where Fort Sill now stands. Afterwards, in 1871, at the head of a hundred warriors, he made an attack upon a corn train in Texas, killed seven teamsters, one of whom was tied to the wheels of a

wagon and burned over a slow fire. Boasting of this act to General W. T. Sherman and Agent Tatum, they simultaneously ordered his arrest. This was effected, together with that of Satank and Big Tree, his boasted accomplices, and they were turned over to the authorities of the state of Texas. Immediately after leaving Fort Sill for that state, under guard, and while in sight of the Agency buildings, Satank, who had been singing the death-song, or making medicine of preparation for death, slipped his hands from the handcuffs, seized a knife, and struck at one of the guards, wounding him in the leg, and was killed by the soldiers on the spot.

The other prisoners — Satanta and Big Tree — were taken to Texas, tried for murder, found guilty by the jury, and sentenced to be hanged. This sentence was afterwards commuted to imprisonment for life.

Thus matters stood until the autumn of 1872. At that time, when the Kiowa and Comanche delegation were at Washington, they were assured that, if they remained at peace till the following 2d month, gave up the stock they had stolen from government, and the captives held by them, their prisoners, which now included the Comanche women and children captured by Colonel McKenzie, would be released. This promise was renewed in the 2d month, and the time of release fixed about the 1st of the 6th month. The Indians, as may be seen in the foregoing pages, faithfully complied with these requirements, giving up all the captives in their possession, and restoring the stolen stock to the