

extent of their ability; both tribes, except a small band of Comanche outlaws, refraining from hostile acts, with the full understanding that their prisoners should be restored to them.

This, so far as the restoration of the Comanche women and children was concerned, was done without difficulty, they being prisoners of war, and detained on the authority of the government itself; but with the imprisoned chiefs of the Kiowas — Satanta and Big Tree — the case was different. They had been surrendered to the state of Texas, and were in prison in accordance with the laws of that state, and could only be pardoned by its governor. The general government had no more right to promise the release of these two prisoners than to interfere with the operation of the laws of any state in any other respect. It had a right, however, to negotiate with the governor of Texas for their release, and promise to the Indians the result of such negotiation; and there would probably have been no difficulty in obtaining their release but for the excited state of the public mind growing out of the Modoc tragedy. This induced the governor to interpose new conditions for the release of these prisoners.

In the mean time, the Kiowas not being able to comprehend why the Comanche prisoners were restored, while their own friends were retained in prison, were very uneasy, and it was with difficulty that they were kept quiet.

While affairs were in this situation, much correspond-

ence was going on between the officers of state and the governor of Texas, setting forth, on the one part, the faithful compliance of the Kiowas with all the imposed conditions for securing the release of their chiefs.

The governor, however, in order to render himself politically more popular with the people of his state, so as to secure, if possible, his re-election to the gubernatorial chair, constantly demanded additional conditions, which were wholly impracticable. This correspondence finally resulted in sending the two chiefs to Fort Sill, to be held there until a council should be had with the Kiowa and Comanche chiefs, early in the following 10th month, by the parties before mentioned, at which the question of release should be finally settled.

The Kiowas consented to keep the peace until that time, which it was made to appear at the council they had faithfully done.

The conditions which the governor of Texas proposed to the government, on which he would release the two prisoners, were, that not only the Kiowas, to whom the prisoners belonged, but "all of the horse [mounted] Indians bordering on Texas be gathered into reservations, their arms and horses taken from them, and supplies of food be issued to them for not longer than one day at a time." (See letter of Governor E. J. Davis to Hon. C. Delano, Secretary of the Interior.)

On the arrival of Governor Davis, he took up his quarters at the fort, and refused to meet the Indians except inside the garrison. This the Indians were opposed to