

to be released on the future good behavior of the tribe, whenever he should be satisfied that these terms were complied with. They were not to be pardoned, but subject to re-arrest at any time, upon the misdemeanor of the Kiowas, and returned to the authorities of Texas, saying, in the winding up of his speech, "I will not change these conditions."

The Indians agreed to all these conditions, provided the governor would release the prisoners immediately, without returning them to the guard-house, which he refused to do, and the council closed.

The following, though a bright, pleasant day outwardly, yet was a gloomy day at the Agency. The Indians were much excited, though this excitement was not manifested in words or noise; it was of the more deadly kind, which shaded the countenance and gleamed in the eye. The Kiowas were all about, with their bows strung, ready for use at a moment's warning. Kicking Bird said his "heart was a stone; there was no soft spot in it. He had taken the white man by the hand, thinking him to be a friend, but he is not a friend; government has deceived us; Washington is rotten." Lone Wolf said, "I want peace — have worked hard for it — kept my young men from raiding — followed the instructions Washington gave me to the best of my knowledge and ability. Washington has deceived me, — has failed to keep faith with me and my people, — has broken his promises; and now there is nothing left us but war. I know that war with Washington means the

extinction of my people, but we are driven to it; we had rather die than live."

Much hard work devolved upon the agent, who saw the approaching storm, and succeeded in awakening the commissioner to a sense of the danger, who set earnestly to work, with the superintendent and others, talking with the frontier citizens of Texas, reasoning with the governor, and pouring oil, as it were, upon the turbulent spirits of the Indians. After much talk and some correspondence, on the part of the commissioner, with the governor, the latter, late in the evening, sent a note to the former, requesting the Indians to meet him again in the garrison, stating that the "final answer will be favorable."

Early the next morning, the Indians, who had been apprised of the governor's request to meet them, but kept in ignorance of his answer, assembled, and proceeded to the post, being determined to rescue the prisoners, even at the price of blood. They loaded their carbines and revolvers, strung their bows, between the Agency and the fort, ready for the emergency, fixing the time for the conflict when the guard should come to take the prisoners back to the guard-house. With full knowledge of the situation, I accompanied them to the post, saw them prepare themselves for action, placing their soldiers, as if by accident, in the most favorable position for shooting the governor and the guard; placing fleet horses convenient for the prisoners; and, to avoid suspicion, some of their women