

tents of my trunk might require removing on similar grounds, I thought best to remove it wholly, and so rid the lodge of all obnoxious medicine at once. This being done, rather than remain for some hours enveloped in clouds of tobacco smoke, I retired to the ambulance, and betook myself to sleep.

22d. — Repaired my ambulance by straightening the bent bolts, and tying the parts together with raw hide where the bolts were broken, so that, with proper care, I think I can get to the Agency with it.

To-day, while the young man who looks after Kicking Bird's ponies and mules, being his nephew, was looking for some missing ponies, after having taken my mules to the herd, he saw three white men, — probably hunters, as they proved not to be surveyors; one of them, for some purpose known only to himself, shot at him. The ball passed through his shirt and blanket, but fortunately missed his body, and he escaped unharmed.

The Kiowas are much excited about it this evening, and had he been killed, in all probability the earth would have drunk other blood than his ere the sun of another day had risen. That little party, if no more, might have looked upon the setting sun this day for the last time.

The free press of our country would have been flooded with inflammatory articles against the Indians, with horrible and soul-stirring accounts of "Indian barbarities," "three men killed by the Kiowas," &c., &c., while there might have been no one to have given one word

of explanation to the world. It is high time that the injuries received, and the aggravating circumstances, which excite the uncultivated minds of these savages to acts of retaliation and barbarity, were beginning to be understood, and, if possible, stopped.

We hear abundance about Indian depredations in Texas, but rarely of the robberies committed by white people from that state against them. These are not seldom nor small. Over two hundred head of ponies and mules have been stolen from the Indians of this reservation alone, since the council, in the 10th month last, and the affiliated bands of the Wichita Agency have suffered about the same. Yet Governor Davis, at the council at Fort Sill, made the public declaration, "My people have committed no depredations against you," in the face of hundreds of Indians and many white people who knew to the contrary.

It is a well-known fact that there is a gang of desperadoes, having their headquarters about Red River Station, Jacksboro', and Waco, in Texas, who make a regular business of horse-stealing and other desperate deeds. These are furnished, as I have been informed from reliable sources,* with false hair, masks, and other Indian

* On one occasion the sheriff of one of the north-western counties of Texas informed me, that twice in his official capacity he had called out a portion of the militia to put down Indian depredators in his county, and in the ensuing skirmish one or two had been killed. The individuals killed on both these occasions proved to be white men, so thoroughly disguised with false hair, masks, and Indian equipage, as to readily be mistaken for Indians.