

CHAPTER XVIII. XIX.

KICKING BIRD'S INTERVIEW WITH THE AGENT IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE. — WOMAN'S HEART'S STORMY VISIT. — KIOWA COUNCIL. — KICKING BIRD DEJECTED. — INTERVIEW WITH KICKING BIRD AT THE TRADING-HOUSE. — THE MATRON AND SEAMSTRESS LEAVE THE SCHOOL, ETC.

Insert M.S.

~~5th Month, 22d.~~ Last evening Kicking Bird, according to his usual practice, came into the agent's private office to have a little social talk. Running Wolf came slyly into an adjoining room, and stood by the door to listen to what was said.

The agent remarked that he was sorry that so many of the Kiowa chiefs were angry at him because of the shortness of their rations, as he had tried every way in his power to have a sufficient supply in readiness for the occasion, but had failed.

Kicking Bird replied that the Kiowa chiefs were not all mad. His heart felt good that the Comanches had brought in the stolen stock (as will be explained on another page). He did not smoke the [war]-pipe with the Comanches, and now he understood that several of the

Lone Wolf & Woman's Heart having secretly taken the pipe with the Comanches, had with some success exercised an influence over the more restless of the warriors, to join them, now formed a scheme to bring Kicking Bird into disfavor, & thereby destroy his authority as principal chief. Lone Wolf would then assume the headship of the tribe — publicly take the Comanche pipe, & thus secure the alliance of the Arapahoes & Apaches according to their pledge — to do as the Kiowas should.

If successful thus far the allied force would be secretly sent against the frontier settlements as planned before the great Medicine Dance.

Having matured this scheme Lone Wolf secretly left the Reservation to go into Mexico to bury his son, who was killed there as heretofore related, leaving Woman's Heart to watch an opportunity to carry out that part of the plan against Kicking Bird. So account for his absence. The Agent was informed that being in deep mourning for his son he could not come to the Agency until the days of mourning were ended.

Woman's Heart being on the alert for an opportunity to carry out the portion of the plot entrusted to him, seized upon the following occasion: On the evening of the 22nd of the 5th Month. — (resumes present book)