

CHAPTER X X.

THE COMANCHE MEDICINE MAN. — DEPREDAATION ON AGENCY STOCK. — DISCOURAGEMENT OF THE KIWAS. — INTERVIEW WITH KICKING BIRD. — PEN-HA-TETH-KAH'S AND QUIRTSQUIP'S BAND RETURN. — THEY REPORT OTHER COMANCHES AND CHEYENNES ON THE WAR-PATH.

AFTER leaving the Agency on the 8th inst., the Comanches, at the call of a young medicine man belonging to the Quahada band, went out to make medicine not far from the junction of Pecon Creek and the North Fork of Red River. This is a new thing with the Comanches, they, according to the Kiowas, never having before made medicine as a tribe, which corresponds with the statements of white people who have known them for many years.

This young medicine man makes bold pretensions. He claims that he has raised the dead to life. He is reported to have raised from his stomach nearly a wagon-load of cartridges at one time, in the presence of several Comanches. He then swallowed them again, informing the Comanches that they need not fear the expenditure

of ammunition in carrying on a war against the whites, as he can supply all their needs in that line. He can make medicine which will render it impossible for a Comanche to be killed, even though he stand just before the muzzles of the white man's guns. He ascends above the clouds far beyond the sun — the home of the Great Spirit, with whom he has often conversed.

He has done these things in open daylight, in the presence of many Comanches, remaining in the sky over night, and coming back next day; he has been known to do this four times. In short, he has power to control the elements, to send wind, lightning, thunder, rain, and hail upon his enemies, and in no respect is he inferior to the Great Spirit.

The main body of the Comanches believe all this, and are afraid to disobey him for fear of his medicine if they offend him.* Horseback, who has hitherto been friendly, has brought in and left his ambulance with the agent,

* How this bold pretender succeeds in deluding the minds of this people may be understood from the following. It is given out that at a certain time he will visit the sun, the dwelling-place of the Great Spirit. A number of prominent persons are in attendance as witnesses. He withdraws himself a short distance from them, charging them to look directly at the sun until he speaks to them, then to let their eyes slowly fall to the place where he is standing; as they do this, they will see dark bodies descend to receive him, with which he will ascend. His directions being complied with, the dark objects descend to him, and, being blinded by their continued gazing upon the orb of light, he bids them slowly raise their eyes, and the dark objects arise, while he conveys himself away, and keeps himself concealed until the time appointed for his return. These men, thoroughly deluded, believe and report that they saw him ascend to the sun.