

beginning of a deeper work, even the committing to them of the good seed of the kingdom.

As in nature the rough ground must be grubbed, the soil broken up — cleared of stones, and, perhaps, left to the mellowing effects of the rigorous frosts of winter — to insure the successful cultivation of that grain which is outwardly, as the staff of life, contributing to the nourishment and growth of these bodies, so I believe there is a preliminary work to be done among this people, before their minds, enslaved and enchained by superstition, can so receive the seed of the word of life as to insure its growth.

Not but that they may be, and are, heirs of salvation, and that a manifestation of the “grace of God which brings salvation” has in some measure appeared unto them; but that while their secret enmity, their superstitions, and ignorance prevail, a prior work is needed before presenting the sublime truths of the gospel. After the soil is properly prepared for its reception, a wise husbandman must know the times when to commit the seed to the ground, and the best method of sowing it. Otherwise, not only all previous labor may be lost, no grain produced, but by thus preparing the soil for usefulness, and then neglecting to commit the seed thereto, it is but rendered more susceptible of producing a greater growth of weeds. In like manner, after the preliminary work is — as appears to be the case with these Caddoes — sufficiently advanced, a new class of laborers should be introduced to the field, — even

sowers of the seed, — instructed and furnished by the Lord of the field, lest previous labor be worse than lost, by leaving the prepared ground to grow up with the weeds of vice, many of which may be of foreign seed.

In taking this view of the work among this people, I can but desire that the eyes of the agents, and others concerned, may be opened, and turned towards the great Husbandman, looking to Him that spiritual-minded laborers may be sent into the field, as they may be needed to accomplish His designs, whose the work is, and to whom the glory of their redemption must belong.

Although the following occurrences took place after my leaving the Wichita Agency, I thought it would not be improper to insert an account of them, according to information received from persons residing there at the time. About the time of my leaving there, the hostile Indians belonging to the Kiowa, Comanche, and Cheyennes Agencies, were turned over to the military department, and all who remained out from the Agencies were considered hostile. A month or so afterwards, two bands of Comanches, who had not been able to come in sooner, and not being satisfied to remain out with the hostile element of the tribe, in an unfriendly attitude, broke away, and came to the friendly Comanche camp on the Washita River near the Wichita Agency. A small company of soldiers had been located at that Agency for some time previous, and General Davidson, with more soldiers, proceeded to that place, to give conditions to the Comanches who had but just arrived,