

116-117     It was usually the practice that when an obedient member of the tribe was lashed for an offence for him at the first opportunity to announce the name of the soldier or soldiers who chastized him and say, "You have honored me with the attention of a soldier, so come and eat with me."

In a few instances on the first day I saw the soldiers strike other Indians with their quirts for venturing too near the deadline. We were marching quietly along the second day when I saw several Indians step out to the edge of a hill and look down into a hollow. I naturally stepped out with them and saw they were watching some black-tailed deer on the creek bottom below us. Just then one of the Indians yelled, "Get out of the way, everybody." I glanced about and saw the soldiers bearing down upon us with their quirts upraised to strike us. As fast as they came to an offender they gave him a cutting blow with their quirts. In one case I saw the blood discolor a man's shirt.

I at once thought, "I too must take my share of the punishment, as I agreed."

A soldier rushed at me with uplifted quirt and said, "Father, you have no ears to hear," meaning I had no ears to hear the law, but instead of giving me the cruel blow I expected, he let the lash fall gently on my back. They punished me, as well as the others, because their orders were to spare no one who had violated the Council's orders. They addressed me as "Father" because I was the acting agent.

When we went into camp that evening I had the crier announce the names of the soldiers who had punished me and invite them to come and eat with me because they had honored me with the attention of soldiers.