

My Dear and Precious Family:-

Being about to leave for camp, I sieze a few moments this morning to write to you, that you may know that my health has continued pretty good since coming in; indeed. The heaviness at my stomach is not so great as it was, neither those sick spells so severe or so frequent, so that I feel much encouraged.

As there are so many bad reports about the Kiowas, of their being off the reservation etc., in order to know the exact location of every band, I expect to go out on horse back and travel from camp to camp until I have visited all the camps of the Kiowas, which will keep me pretty busy to accomplish in 2 weeks, though I may get around sooner. Of course I shall not undertake such a trip alone. I shall expect for some cheif- either Kicking Bird, Sun Boy or some other cheif to go with Me.

I did not say anything about thy selling the colt, in my last, but it is likely it will be best if an opportunity occurs. I should think considering his age that he would sell readily, but of course I do not know anything of those matters in Iowa, and I want you to do what appears best to you. There are friends there with whom you can talk and advise, better acquainted with the state of affairs there than I am. (I want to get those Meader or Marshall notes paid off this spring, and see no other way of making payment to Father Gregg.)

It is impossible to form any ideas as to the intentions of the indians for the coming spring and summer. The Commanches or small bands of them have been raiding all winter; of course I cannot say positively that the Kiowas have not, but I have good reasons to think they have not raided in Texas.

A few Commanches are making arrangements for farming,. Peach trees and plum trees are in bloom, prairies are green. Howard has lettuce up an inch in the bed in his garden.

I wrote to Oliver's yesterday, and know not as I shall be able to fill out this sheet on account of having some things to do to get ready, but shall send what I get written be it much or little and will write as soon as I get back. I sent a couple of papers yesterday, one of which contains a letter from Enoch Hoag the superintendent, the other contains a letter from thy poor husband. I want both taken care of or preserved as I may want them at a future time if I ever live to get home, and if I do not perhaps the children would like to see them in a future day.

Kicking Bird has come and I must quit for the present and go and see him, try to find out what the prospects are. Well the prospect is that I shall go out to Kicking Birds camp in my ambulance, and then if I can get anyone to go with me, I will go round, if not I will remain there until I come in. Now as I have considerable to do to get ready I will close with my love to you all.

Thomas C. Battey

No. 27

4th Mo. 1st 1874

My Dear and Precious Wife and Children:-

I have not been to camp since my last, and yesterday came here (Wichita Agency) in company with T. Wistan and Wm. ~~XXXXXX~~ Pickerel who are now in the country. We found Dr. Rhodes and Marmaduke C. Cope from Philadelphia, whom T Wistan left at the Cheyenne Agency here. Cyrus Beede