

they had the accommodations for them. The Caddoes are going right ahead, making farms, building comfortable houses, the Agent sawing the lumber for them and furnishing nails, sash and glass. They also are putting out orchards of Apples, Peaches, Plums and Cherries, and ~~really~~ are appearing to ~~xxx the~~ ~~villages~~ ~~life~~ take hold of civilization as though they meant to try the civilized life more fully and perfectly than ever before. One thing that is helping them, they have now obtained an equal title on their reservation with the Wichitas, which they have not had until quite recently, and they now feel that they are permanently settled, and may enjoy the benefits of their improvements, and have a country to leave to their children after them. It certainly has a cheering effect upon them to feel that their land is their own; But they sadly need instruction, particularly the woman, as they do their work in a very slovenly manner. I think the women in that tribe are rising more toward an equality with the men in the estimation of that tribe which is one good thing. The Wichitas have also made a great improvements since my first knowledge of them. Then, the women went with the upper part of the bodies from the waist upward, entirely naked, now though they do not dress like the whites, nor any other tribe of Indians, they dress so as to cover their nakedness in a tolerable manner which much improves their appearance. They also send out 20 scholars to the school at the Agency, but they are so inclined to slip away that their attendance is attended with much trouble to the teachers, of whom there are three besides the other caretakers.

Our school at this Agency sustained quite a loss when J. Buttler went away from the effects of which it has not recovered, and probably will not until the present teacher is superceded by one more efficient. My paper is full so farewell. With ~~love~~ tender love to you all, T. C. Battey.

No. 29

Kiowa and Commanche Agency

4 / 17 / 1874

My Ever Dear and Precious Wife and Children

Again at the Agency when I arrived today, and ~~was~~ felt dissappointed in not getting a letter from home, the last I have received was mailed on the 31st of last month. I started last 2nd day for Caddo with Mr. C. Cope and ~~the~~ Dr. J. E. Rhodes. Traveled 2 days. Had to camp out one night, (new business for M. C. Cope who is an old man). I relinquished my place in the ambulance to the Friends, and took up my lodging upon the ground, - had a good nights rest however. We arrived the second night at Smith Pauls Valley, and succeeded in in getting beds for the Philadelphia Friends and I kept the ambulance. The next morning started on, proceeded to the Washita river, which appeared high, but as teams crossed it the day before and the only person we could get any information from was a woman who thought it had raised about 4 inches, I took out one of my mules, got on his back and rode in to ascertain the practicability of crossing. The current was so strong that I could not turn about to come back after finding that we could not cross with the ambulance, and I had to go on across. The landing place being several rods lower down than where I entered, I made it in safety, the mule being a large one and strong, swimming with me on his back. I need not say that the water came over the mules back and gave me a pretty thorough wetting, - except the upper part of ~~my~~ my body. As the current was too strong for me to ride back, I went up into the town (Cherokee Town) and got a man to set me back with a skiff. He like nearly every one I meet knew me, though I knew him not. Arrangements were soon made to transfer my passengers and their luggage to Cherokee Town on the opposite bank of the river, where Dr. Shirley lives, who agreed to take them on to Caddo, then by taking my mule farther up the river we succeeded in getting him into the water and by being carried down by the current he made the landing where he entered the river with me on his back. So after crossing the river 6 times, I started on the end of the road toward the Agency and traveled about 28 miles. Stopped