

got to the bottom of this page that it was the last one so I will close, with my love to you all, and to my parents on both sides of the house, brothers, sisters etc. I suppose Charley and Ruth get to see my letters do they not? My love to them. Farewell, and farewell to the children. Truly Etc. T. C. Battey. Evening, received letter 28 since writing. Did I mention in my last that the Agents wife had returned? She has been here now nearly 2 weeks.

No. 30

4 / 22 / 1874

My Dear and ever Precious Wife and Children

It is now wanting 2 days of a month since I came in from the Kiowa Camp. I do not gain much in my feelings though I gain some in weight, weighing when I came in 137lbs., now about 143. The Agent though unwilling for me to give up my place has agreed to give me leave of absence, but I do not know but that I shall make one more trial to camp before leaving them. I want to spend a week or two after leaving the service in picking up information that may be useful to them so that even though I should leave the work right away, I might not come home for some weeks, perhaps a month after leaving the employ.

Several Indians are now in for rations, among them several Kiowas, but it remaining cold and stormy they are slow about coming in.

We have had abundance of cold stormy weather during this month, yet peaches are not killed, but the corn rotted in the ground and will have to be replanted.

George Dickenson made but one trip to camp and has now gone home, Not leaving the most favorable impressions respecting his discreetness, to say the least. I think that while he was anxious to do right, he also wanted to have the name of doing all he did do (who blames him for that?) and allowed his tongue to break over the bounds of discretion, in his conversation. His health was altogether insufficient for the work and I am of the opinion that one more trip to camp would have insured a resting place for his bones in this land. (I did not mean this for an unfeeling expression but on looking it over after having written it, I did not know but that it might have that appearance.) A. J. Standing is in the Apache camps, so that there are none out with the Kiowas at the present time.

Satanta came in today with his people ~~xxxx~~ for rations. Lone wolf has not been in at the Agency since his son was killed in Mexico, but the reports so current in the papers of his being on the War Path in utterly without foundation. According to the custom of his tribe (Kiowa) he is mourning, that is he is wandering about in lonely solitary places about his camp, eating little but making doleful howlings for the dead, having destroyed nearly all his valuables, wearing only very poor ragged clothing, taking no care of himself nor allowing anyone else to care for him. He is anxious that the bones of his son be brought back from Mexico and buried on the Reservation where he can see his grave. This is ~~is~~ a Kiowa custom to gather up the bones of deceased friends who die or are killed, and bring them to their own land to be buried.

Kicking Bird has not come for his rations, nor any of the chiefs associated with him, though many of the Kiowas are in at the present time.

I have very little of importance to write, but say that we are having it very wet here, very difficult getting about on account of high water. All the streams are high. Though it seems cold yet, fruit is not killed, and vegetation keeps coming forward. Lettuce and Radishes are in season.

I believe I have written all that I can think of at present. I will close with my love to you all, and enquiring friends. As ever thy husband and your father,

T. C. Battey

No 31

4 / 25 / 1874

My Dear and ever Precious wife and Children:-

Evening.

Ex