

Agent, and is gone to the Great Medicine Council of the Comanches. Some few are bold enough to withstand his power, and remain near the Agency. What the upshot will be it is impossible to conjecture, but in all probability the Comanches will be led by him wherever he sees fit to lead them, and it is seriously to be feared that he will lead them on to destruction in which many others may become involved. The Kiowas are very anxious to keep out of the trouble and come in and remain near the Agency if they had assurance of a sufficiency of subsistence without being compelled to resort to the plains, in which case they cannot avoid being involved with the Comanches in case soldiers are sent out after them. We have no flour, but little sugar, little coffee etc. Have not had for several issues and they are much discouraged about coming in.

Big Bow is using his influence for good and has ever since Tatum left here. The Kiowas have no desire to raid against Washingtons children in Texas, but they intend raiding in Mexico I think.

It is because of their present unsettled state of affairs that I could not get my own consent to avail myself of my leave of absence at present. I have no desire to boast, but whatever the cause it is patent to all in this country that the Kiowas - noted for their savageness, barbarity, and bloodthirstyness up to the very time of my going among them, are now believed by all in their immediate vicinity, who have the opportunity of knowing them day by day, to be, with the Apaches, the most quiet and peacefully inclined Indians of the country. This is indeed wonderful, and is remarked with wonder by all who have known them for the past twenty-five years. I would not write this way but to you, but I take nothing to myself, and really my beloved ones I have not counted my life dear to myself but have repeatedly as it were in my hand and gone forth at times when many at the Agency did not expect me to return alive if at all, and yet I have been favored to go out with cheerfulness, and without looking at the probable results, and as unworthy as I am, of the least notice from Him who sitteth and judgeth the earth, I feel that I should not bear testimony to the truth were I not to ascribe my return, time and again to his mighty power, and most merciful providences.

I this morning notified the Shearon girls that I believed that certain parties of the Comanches, young men, designed their capture; and desired them to hasten from the country. Trotting Wolf had repeatedly taken them by the hand, looking them straight in the eye, in his broken english would tell them with great seriousness, "Bime by- you see wild man kill buffalo on the plains. Comanche no good." He had repeated this time after time and yet they did not take the hint until after I talked with them this morning. So if my delay in coming home should have the effect of rescuing these worthy and amiable young women from this most horrible slavery among savages, worse than death, I should be amply repaid and you ought to rejoice for their sakes.

I do not want this last account to be injudiciously read, but could not refrain from writing it to you, to whom I want to write everything, and have crowded so many things together that I do not know as you can get the straight of it all. Farewell my precious ones.

T. C. Battey

No. 34

5th Mo. 25th

My Dear and Ever Precious Wife and Children:-

I yesterday received your welcome letter no. 33 and as you will observe I am at the Agency and shall remain here for a week or two before going out to camp again, notwithstanding my health is very much improved. The reason for my not being in camp you will understand against you have read my letter through. I have a great deal to write you so I want you to get all things in readiness and sit down, while I give you a long talk. I have so much to say I hardly know where to begin, but think I will begin by telling you why I am at the Agency. I will copy from my diary:

22nd. Last evening, Kicking Bird came into the Agents private office in order