

I wanted to have seen Dr. Nicholson and C. Bede but shall probably miss seeing them and getting my letter at Wichita City/. But since we cannot control events we must make the best of what falls to our lot.

If I had taken the stage which left Sill the morning I did, I should have been within a few miles of the place where the train was burnt and should in all probability have passed it while burning, asight I am glad I did not see, and hope I never may. The road from here to Caddo being all the way among whites and civilized Indians will be entirely safe, and I shall be at home probably the last of next week. Farewell. My love to you all my dear and precious ones also to other friends and relatives as though named. T. C. Battey

No. 42

Wichita Agency

7th Mo. 16th 1874

My ever Dear and Precious Wife and Children:-

Still at this Agency unable to get away as yet, and know not when I can but continue in hope that I may before long. I feel a little better for a few days but am still quite weak, and easily tired out.

Day before yesterday a party of wood-choppers and haulers was attacked by Indians not far from Fort Sill, one man killed (said to have been shot so full of bullets and arrows as to not leave room for another), and two others missing, but whether they were wounded and crawled away, were taken captive and reserved for torture, or escaped is not yet known. Fifty three head of cattle were run off by the attacking party.

I know not whether any of the Kiowas are on the War Path or not, not having been able to ascertain, but think it not unlikely now since their Medicine is over that some of them should have joined the war parties. I wrote a letter to Kicking Bird a few days ago, but have not learned any of his intentions any farther than that he intends to make his camp near the Agency, and stay there for the present at least. Clouds are still gathering and growing darker.

The reason that I did not come away before was that the Agent did not want me to leave until the end of the month, and I did not get my pay until the last day of the month. I could then have taken the stage but knowing of the train which was coming down which would delay me but ten days in getting home and would save me about 25 dollars, I thought I had better come that way, had I come on the last stage I would have got through safely, meeting the train about two or three hours before their attack by the Indians.

Though it is no small ~~thing~~ trial to remain here under such circumstances health so poor, nothing to do, and needing to be in a cooler and more congenial climate,- and above all to be again with my most precious family- yet I desire to be content as I have not power to have it otherwise. We are looking for a train from Caddo every day, if it comes and no other way appears I shall leave here by it and come home that way.

I want you not to feel uneasy about me, as I am fully at ease as respecting myself, fully believing that a hair of my head cannot be taken without His permission who has often preserved my unworthy life, in the midst of many dangers, and has sustained me thus far, and though the time of my separation be thus prolonged it is in accordance with his will, for our good in the end either for the exercise of faith and patience,- growth in Grace,- or some good purpose of his which we may not know, but should not doubt.

Last evening about 10 o'clock some unknown Indians were lurking about here apparently trying to ascertain our situation, weak points etc, but yet not creating much excitement,- they offered no violence but would not suffer themselves to be approached near enough to be endangered or recognized. I have written twice I think about the train that was burned but have written reports, we now have the true account of the circumstance. There were 3 wagons instead of twenty, and but ~~4~~ men (4). They were warned of their danger twice within two hours before they were killed, and in time to have saved the