

Chapter X.

Modoc Tragedy - The Unwelcome Message.

Inasmuch as the "Modoc Tragedy" heretofore mentioned, stirred the heart of the whole nation, and influenced the Department to violate a sacred pledge made to the Kiowas in council, as related on page 140; since it had an intimate bearing upon the most important of my labors among them, and has not generally been understood, perhaps ^{an} ~~an~~ account of it and the circumstances leading thereto might profitably claim a place in these pages, as a prelude to what follows in the latter part of this chapter.

It appears that in the earlier settlement of Oregon, the Indians seeing the best of their lands fast becoming occupied by another race, became uneasy, and committed some depredations upon the settlements. This led to difficulties between them, in which a number of Indians as well as white people lost their lives. Several tribes were implicated in these troubles. At length Government determined to extinguish by purchase, the Indian title, not only to lands thus settled upon, but to large and valuable tracts besides.

At this time Kient-pooz (Man of few words), the hereditary chief of the Modocs was just reaching his majority, the tribe having been governed during his minority by ^hStronges and inferior chief, with whom the Department had transacted Official business. It was thought essential to the validity of the purchasing treaty that the signature of the her^editary chief should be procured. Ki-ent-pooz upon promise of being recognized by the Government as chief of equal authority with ^hStronges, and of being associated