

CHAPTER IV.

WORK ON THE HOUSE. — WICHITA GRASS HOUSES. —
 CADDO HOUSES. — AGENT VISITS KIOWA CAMP. —
 DEATH OF NEWAHKASSET. — TONQUEWA MASSACRE,
 — IMPRESSIONS RESPECTING GOING TO LIVE WITH
 THE KIWAS. — BOY SENT OUT OF THE CHAMBER. —
 LEGEND OF MEDICINE BLUFFS. — TWO SMALL BOYS
 QUARREL. — INTERVIEW WITH THE MOTHER OF ONE
 OF THEM. — DEATH OF NELLIE BLOCK. — SCHOOL
 REPORT.

2d Month, 22d, 23d, and 24th.—The carpenters having commenced work improving the chambers of this building, the school was dismissed and the scholars sent home on the 23d. A. J. Standing and myself set to work tearing up the sleeping mats from the floor, and cleaning up generally. The chambers being partitioned off, rude bedsteads and bed-ticks made, we worked hard in getting the ticks and bolsters filled with good clean oat-straw, and bunks put up, which we got accomplished late in the evening. Our sleeping apartments now look more like civilized life than heretofore, and the scholars can sleep in beds, instead of being huddled down together on the floor.

25th.—After our meeting for worship, which had been continued, on the first day of the week, since the establishment of the Agency, I rode over to the Keechi and Wakoe villages, in company with agents Richards, Tatum, and some others, to see their grass houses, which are built in a circular form by erecting poles bound together at the top, and thatched with long, coarse grass. Openings about two and a half feet wide and four in height, being left upon opposite sides, serve for doors, windows, and ventilators. Platforms are made quite around the lodge, except at the openings, about two and a half feet high, by erecting perpendicular stakes from the ground to the poles, forming the main frame-work of the lodge. Cross-pieces are tied from these stakes to the outside or frame-poles, at the height mentioned; poles are laid upon these, and covered with willow rods woven together with bark or buckskin strings. These serve, by being covered with buffalo robes, blankets, &c., for beds, and extend around the lodge on both sides, from doorway to doorway. In front of these, in some of the lodges, were stools, made by cutting off logs about ten inches in diameter, square and smooth, then dressing a portion of it away so as to form a leg, which was driven into the ground sufficiently deep to hold it firmly, while the top is from twelve to fifteen inches high. The fireplace is in the centre of the lodge, and consists of a round hole dug a few inches in depth and something over two feet across. The lodge complete looks from without like a large well-formed haystack.