

country, giving it a wild, romantic appearance. From the summit of the most prominent of these, which rises, perhaps, two hundred feet above the surrounding country, a beautiful view, for many miles, is obtained. We stopped a short time at Mahway's (Shaking-hand) camp, and then proceeded to the Wichita Agency. I put up at the school-house for the night.

9th. — After visiting Howeak's camp, on the Washita, we arrived, last evening, at Kicking Bird's camp, which is now situated on the north side of the Washita, off the reservation for the Kiowas and Comanches. Had a long council, which was continued this morning, in which nine Kiowa chiefs were present. They expressed their determination to cease raiding and depredating upon the whites, and wished to be at peace with other Indians, making a special request that some good white man should go with them, to meet the Utes in council, in order to make peace with them.

After the council was ended, with Kicking Bird for guide, we left for the other Kiowa camps. Crossed the prairies and entered the mountains ere night overtook us, and were compelled to encamp among them.

It was a beautiful evening, though cold, and we had built a roaring camp-fire, about which our little party were sitting, in the double enjoyment of its genial warmth, and the beauty of the wild scenes, lighted up by the silvery light of the moon. One of the party asked the chief what the Kiowas thought of the moon. He replied, "It is the Great White Man:" then, look-

ing for a cluster of stars, which he did not succeed in pointing out to us, he stated it to have the outline of a man, and to be the Great Kiowa. He subsequently pointed out to me the Pleiades, with some of the surrounding stars, as this cluster.

The Great Kiowa, he said, was a very large man, and also very powerful. He was so large that he could cross the widest rivers at a single step. He made all this great country, with all its lakes and rivers, its mountains and plains; he also made all the animals, of every kind, that were found in it before the white people came, — such as the buffalo, the bear, the beaver, the deer, the antelope, and the wolf.

After having made all these, he travelled a long while to the westward, until he came to a very large, hollow tree, lying on the ground; walking up to this, he made three feints as if to strike it, and the fourth time he gave it a hard blow, upon which out marched a body of Kiowas, — full-grown men and women, — who ran from him as if in great alarm. He called them back to him, telling them that he was their father; that he made them; that they were his children. When they came back to him, he discovered that they were disfigured by having some of their members improperly placed upon their foreheads. Correcting this error in their formation, he sent them away; and again striking the log as before, another body of Kiowas came forth. These also consisted of grown men and women, and upon their fleeing from him, were called back, as the others had