

CHAPTER VIII.

AGENT TATUM. — HIS ADMINISTRATION AND LABORS. —
 RELEASE OF MEXICAN CAPTIVES. — COUNCIL WITH
 KIWAS AND COMANCHES RELATIVE TO RELEASE OF
 PRISONERS. — DISMISSAL OF MILITARY GUARD. —
 DEATH OF DANGEROUS EAGLE'S WIFE. — SAND STORM.
 — TARANTULA. — CENTIPEDE. — SCORPION RATTLE-
 SNAKE. — BIG BOW. — RAIDING PARTY OF COMANCHES
 STOPPED. — VISIT TO WICHITA AGENCY.

4th Month, 4th. — After taking leave of Agent Tatum and wife, who will probably leave the Agency for their home before I shall come in again, I this day left for camp, where we arrived a little before sundown.

In thus parting with our much esteemed agent, whose term of office has expired, and from whose hands, with those of his excellent wife, I have received so many favors and attentions, my mind naturally reverts to the past, reviewing the various trying scenes of his administration. In so doing, I am persuaded, that, whatever errors there may be discovered in his management of the affairs of this Agency, they will be found to be of the head, and not of the heart.

The Indians, who are now beginning to understand and appreciate his labors for their good, very much regret his leaving them at this time; many of the better disposed among them often saying that he has had a hard time with them for many years, and now, when they themselves are just ready to leave their old ways and start on a new and better road, it is too bad to leave them.

Indeed, his steady, upright, straightforward dealing, his firmness and decision of character, coupled with great coolness and kindness of heart, have procured for him many friends, not only among the Indians, but also among the frontiersmen of Texas.

Many of these latter have abundant cause to remember him with gratitude for the assistance he has rendered them in the recovery of their captured children and stolen stock.

Even in the arrest of Satanta and Big Tree, for which he has been much censured, I cannot see how the dignity of government can be maintained if capital criminals may be permitted to come forward boldly to government officials and boast of their crimes, and he not cause their arrest, if means to effect the same be at hand.

I know that in his own estimation his administration has not been a successful one, and perhaps, in some respects, it has not. Yet, in looking at the wild, savage state of the Indians of this Agency at the commencement of his term of office, their hostility to the whites, their thievish, predatory propensities, their ferocious, warlike