

## CHAPTER X.

## Council &amp; Message

JOURNEY TO THE KIOWA CAMP. — BUILDING OF MEDICINE HOUSE. — SITUATION OF CAMP. — MEDICINE DANCE, ETC.

6th Month, 16th. — Arrived at the Kiowa camps, after three days of hard travel, with a small party of Indians, who were sent in to the Agency for me, and to get rations. The distance from the Agency is about one hundred and fifty miles in a north-westerly direction. They are here making preparations for the great Medicine Dance.

The whole Kiowa tribe, as well as nearly all the Apaches, about five hundred Comanches, several Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and other Indians, being together, makes a very large encampment.

This is situated in a beautiful broad valley, through which flows a fine stream of clear water nearly devoid of alkali. It is called by the Kiowas You'-guoo-ō-poh' (Rice Creek).

Had a talk with several of the head men of the tribe respecting the change in the intentions of government as regards the release of Satanta and Big Tree. They cannot comprehend why government should violate its

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## The Modoc Tragedy — The Unwelcome Message

As much 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, & had not generally been understood, perhaps an account of it & 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, & 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 & valuable tracts besides.

At this time Kient-poo (Man of few words), the hereditary chief of the Modocs was just reaching his majority, the tribe having been governed during his minority by Shongas an 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 hereditary chief should be procured. Kient-poo upon promise of being recognized by the Government as chief of equal authority with Shongas, & of being associated with him in all official transactions with the tribe signed the treaty alienating the home of his fathers on Lost River, & accept-