

ing of his child in the arms of its mother & then killing her another for the outrage of his wife before his eyes, while he was held under guard so that he could not defend her.

An unconditional surrender of their strong hold in the rocks meant the giving up of these men to death & thus the chief was not willing to do.

A place was finally agreed upon for the council, & the "Peace Council Tent" was erected mid-way between the Rocks & the army camp.

The next day after its erection Capt. Jack sent for Col. Meacham to meet him in it, objecting to the presence of the soldier chief (Eben, Canby) & the Medicine chief (Dr. Thomas). The objection to General Canby may be easily understood, that to Dr. Thomas arises from a superstitious notion, encouraged by their Medicine Men, to the effect that, since the Great Spirit is superior to nature, & can do things beyond our comprehension, so the Medicine Man, deriving his power from him is endowed with supernatural capabilities, even to the controlling of the elements, or causing good or bad spirits to perform their bidding. They claim Ministers of the gospel as medicine men, & stand in awe of them.

The invitation was complied with, only a private citizen accompanying him to the tent.

In a conference which continued seven hours, the chief rehearsed after the true Indian style of diplomacy, all the grievances & indignities to which he & his people had been subjected. Many of these the Col. from his long acquaintance with the Indian Affairs of the country, knew to be true, & had no reason to disbelieve the others. He could offer no palliations, but claimed a better Government now.

"How long has it been better? Was it since your army stole my horses, & refused

to give them up? Is it a better Government than it was four days ago, when your army was moved near me under a white flag, bringing guns which shoot bullets as big as my head?"

For some time the Commissioner was silent. At length he said "I came to make peace, I see but one way out of this trouble. If you wish to settle every thing up, bring out all your people & let your young men be tried by law."

"I want no more blood; my people are tired of war. If you want any young men before your law give me your men who burned the woman, & killed the women & children on Lost River, & let them stand before Indian law," replied the chief.

"No I cannot give you white men to be tried by Indian law. Indian law is dead," replied the Commissioner for Peace.

"Will you try your men by your law?" The Commissioner dared not promise, & answered only by silence.

"Name any white man who has been punished by your law for crimes committed against Indians; or any Indian who was ever arrested & not punished."

Silently the Commissioner sat trying to think of some one instance where justice had been administered to a white offender.

"Guess you can not," he sarcastically added, amid the taunting laughter of all the Indians present. Col. Meacham, unable to answer, could only listen with shame that his people had not more justice in their defence. The chief then pointed to the tents of the army, not two miles from his camp, & in a taunting manner declared that they were there in violation of a compact for an armistice, adding "No terms can be made while they remain."

"Take away your soldiers, give me a home on Lost River, & bring everything of the past, then we can make peace."