

while the Warriors were going in secret to their several destinations the Old Men Women & children should go to a place near the centre of the Staked Plains where they afterwards told me was a place of concealment, which White People knew nothing of.

Kicking Bird had not yet spoken, Satastas father said to him "Hoon ta. to-gant thony?" "Why you no talk" "Are you a Woman now - sit there & say nothing?" Kicking Bird with a calm subdued voice - though his chin quivered with emotion repelling the taunt replied "I shall speak by & by. I am not now ready." "There is one other man who has not spoken, I want to hear Thomassy. He is one of us; he has taken the pipe; he knows Washington has broken his agreement, I want to hear what he will say to us now." Silence reigned. The pipe was again filled & lighted with unusual solemnity, & being circulated was again offered to me; again I gravely took it - under the keen searching eye of every one present I filled my mouth with smoke, & passed the pipe to Kicking Bird. My mind was all in the dark.

After the pipe was exhausted, I was addressed substantially as follows: - "You was present, when Washington made the agreement by which our Chiefs were to be returned to us. You saw him hold up his hand before the Great Spirit when he promised it. You know the Kiowas have fulfilled their part of the agreement. You yourself have brought us the message that Washington has closed his hand upon them. Now what council do you give?"

Was ever man before placed in such a situation? I felt that the question upon which I was called to speak, was a question of Life or Death to many - myself included; - & yet all was dark to me, not a word presented for me to utter. Deep silence settled upon the council. A silence that seemed to me might be felt. How long it continued I know not; I felt that wisdom beyond that of man was needed at that moment, & endeavored to

draw near to the source of it. At length light dawned - an answer was given me, & I said "It is hard for me to give advice upon this question for two reasons; - the first is, I am as you see a White Man; the second is, you, Kiowas, are my brothers, I am one with you. I know that Washington has broken his agreement, I have been with you, & know you have fulfilled yours, & now I can give you no advice but this, Do nothing suddenly or rashly; Be deliberate & cool. I have a request to make of you, after I tell you why I make it. When Washington's message came to the Agent, & I had read it, I wrote a long talk to him (See Letter Page 157.) in which I informed him that the Kiowas had fulfilled their part of the agreement, & were anxiously awaiting the fulfillment of his. Now my request is this: - Sit down here, where we are, neither go raiding on the settlements, nor go to the Agency until you shall hear from Washington after he reads my talk.

Washington was very angry when he hear three of his Big Chiefs killed. Angry men are seldom wise, & many times do wrong. Washington shut his hand very quick, before he take time to think. By & by he will not be so angry. May be when he see my talk, he think, may be his heart grow warm towards the Kiowas again, & he will open his hand" Kicking Bird was then ready with his talk. He counseled them not to act rashly & in anger - angry people seldom do right, or act wisely, he thought my request was reasonable, there was time enough, nothing would be lost by waiting, & much might be gained. Strange as it may appear the Council settled down to a calm conclusion to wait here until a message should be received from the Agent.

My request was acceded to & the