

But the timely arrival of this message, showing a favorable change in the action of the Government had had the effect to strengthen the influence of Kicking Bird in his peace policy, & unite the tribe more firmly on the basis of friendship to the Whites than ever before.

We remained in the vicinity of the North Fork nearly three weeks after the close of the Medicine Dance, occasionally moving a few miles nearer the Agency, & again encamping a few days in a place, always in the buffalo ranges. The men all the time were busy killing buffalo, & the women curing meat & preparing skins for making lodges. Lone Wolf & Woman's Heart exerting their influence, what they can, over the young men — the warriors, ^{& thereby,} keeping the tribe more or less unsettled, & making much arduous labor for Kicking Bird & his Chiefs to keep them in bounds.

Insert M. S.

CHAPTER XI.

MILITARY SYSTEM OF THE KIOWAS. — BUFFALO HUNT. — DRESSING THE HIDES FOR LODGES AND FOR ROBES. — DANGERS OF THE BUFFALO HUNT. — SICKNESS. — PETROLEUM SPRING. — REPORT. — CONTINUE SICK. — JOURNEY HOME.

~~AFTER the close of the medicine dance, I continued in the Kiowa camp some three weeks, during which time the men were busy in killing buffalo, and the women in curing the meat and preparing their skins for making lodges.~~

Being determined that none of their thoughtless young men should go raiding in Texas, and thereby bring trouble upon the tribe, the Kiowas, immediately after the whole tribe got together on Pecon Creek, ^{6 weeks ago} organized a military system, under the control of the war chiefs, which was put immediately into operation. By this a strong guard of their soldiers were continually watching, day and night, while in camp, to prevent any such enterprise from being undertaken. In moving from place to place, these soldiers marched on each side of the main body, while a front guard went before, and