

there, — take them himself, and he would have them, if that was what he wanted. However, they wished it understood that they were anxious to maintain friendly relations with Washington, and would make one more proposition.

They were willing that a party of their young men, under their leading chief, should join a squad of military scouts in going into the raiding district of Texas, in search of raiding Indians, assist in capturing any that might be found, and turn them over as demanded.

To this the commissioner assented, and gave them thirty days in which to report. They were also told that if they did nothing, their rations would be stopped, and their annuities withheld.

Accordingly, a company was soon formed, who joined a party of soldiers under one of the officers of the fort, went into Texas, in search of Indian raiders, but finding none, they reported their want of success through the officer who commanded the expedition.

During their absence, a party of whites from Texas made a raid into the Indian country, and stole about two hundred head of ponies and mules from the Indian herds. A small number (thirty-seven) of these were recovered and one of the party arrested, through the prompt action of William H. H. Howard, acting agent for the time.

Affairs being in this unsettled condition, Kicking Bird was unwilling to assume the whole responsibility of taking me to his camp, but finally, after consulting with

Stumbling Bear and Sun Boy, — two prominent Kiowa chiefs, — they jointly agreed to my accompanying them, though with apparent reluctance, which I did not understand at the time.

11th Month, 15th. — Arrived at our camping-place, on Rainy Mountain Creek, after a journey of a part of three days. Yesterday, crossing a fresh trail, we noticed, by the tracks, that some of the horses had shoes on — an evidence that they must have been just coming from Texas; and last evening, a small party, consisting of four Comanches belonging to Asa Habbit's band, came to our camp on Sulphur Creek, very hungry of course, and their horses all tired out. They stated that they had been in the vicinity of San Antonio, and had a hard time in keeping clear of the soldiers. Kicking Bird said but little to them, further than to let them know that he did not approve of their going into Texas on any account. Not relishing his disapproval of their conduct, they left soon after supper.

Our route to this place has been varied by passing through rich and fertile valleys, between rocky and precipitous mountains, over beautiful rolling prairies and level sterile plains.

Our camp is situated on one side of a wide and beautiful bottom, of not very rich soil, upon the bank of the creek, which is skirted with timber, in which are hundreds of wild turkeys and many deer, while the plains on either side abound with the never quiet or silent prairie dogs, with their near relative, the tsi-at-kea, or