

burrowing owl, with an occasional straggling buffalo or two, and many antelopes. We are about forty miles north-west from the Agency.

X Shortly after going into camp, the three chiefs, who had taken the responsibility of my being in their camp, spoke to me respecting their reluctance in taking me with them, telling me that the Comanches were not friendly to my being in the Kiowa camps, looking upon me as a spy, and that they might be disposed, if they were to meet me out anywhere, to put me out of the way; further saying that I might see some of them to-morrow, as they were encamped near by. Sun Boy rose up, and bade me follow him. I did so. He led the way, without the utterance of a word, some distance into the thick, brushy wood, to a large oak tree, where he had caused his medicine shield to be placed. This, as usual, was wrapped carefully in a blanket, and mounted upon poles, a little after the fashion of a painter's easel. Stopping at some distance from the shield, the chief bade me by signs to go forward and remove its covering. I did so, and found that it had still another covering of buckskin, with a painted representation of the sun in the centre, shedding rays of all colors, in straight lines, to the circumference. This he also bade me remove, himself still standing where he first stopped. But not understanding how it was fastened, and not being inclined to meddle with those things which they regard as sacred, and withal not fully comprehending the design of the adventure, after laying my hand upon it I hesitated. Upon

this, the chief stepped forward, removed the covering, and desired me not only to pass before it and look at it, but to handle it.

With all this I complied, feeling the thickness of the shield, and handling the raven feathers and bone whistle which hung upon its face. This latter article is made of the principal bone of an eagle's wing.

He appeared satisfied, and proceeded very carefully to replace the coverings, doing it with all the gentle tenderness with which a mother would cover the face of a sleeping infant.

He then led the way back to the place from whence we started, where Kicking Bird and Stumbling Bear were awaiting our return, entire silence having been maintained throughout the proceeding. On our return, seating ourselves by the other chiefs, Kicking Bird explained the object of the adventure, which was to render me safe from the bullets or arrows of the Comanches and Cheyennes. I had looked the shield in the face, had handled the sacred ornaments, and the spirit residing in it had not been angry, and would now watch over and protect me.

From this explanation I was persuaded that they had a double design in what was done. First, that they might know whether the Great Spirit was pleased with my being in their camp, and secondly, for my safety. The Great Spirit resides in the sun. Sun Boy, or the sun's son, having his shield cover painted with a representation of the sun, is especially under his protection,