

killing white people, and white people in return killing Indians. It is because Washington wanted a better road made that he has sent you better agents.

“Your agents used to get drunk, act foolish, carry pistols to fight with, &c. Now you have better agents, who do not get drunk or act foolishly, but do all they can to keep the Indians on the good road.”

A great change in appearance came over Kicking Bird, who had been among the Cheyennes and Comanches, and had evidently been laboring under a wrong impression, and was quite angry at first. He now rested in a thoughtful position for some minutes, and then, in a calm and subdued tone, said, “I know the Comanches have been raiding in Texas, and that they have done badly; and now I want to ask you two one question. I want to know what you both think. Had we better go in and get our annuities, or stay out?” This was a soft way of putting the question of peace or war, — as going to the Agency would, under present circumstances, show that they were determined in their friendship towards the whites; while remaining out would be no less indicative of their sympathies with the Comanches.

The interpreter, without explaining the question to me, said he was no chief; he only interpreted what others said, and should not give them any advice. If they wanted to stay out, do so; if they wanted to go in, do that. I saw that they were not pleased, and had him explain the question and his answer to me. I then said, “Washington’s heart is soft and warm towards the Kio-

was and Apaches; the Apaches have got their annuities, and yours are there waiting for you. The agent will not bring them to your camps; he tells you, you can have them by coming after them, and I think you had better go and get them.

“The agent’s heart is warm; he does not want any trouble to arise; but he is alone. Perhaps, if his Kiowa and Apache friends come in, they can help him to stop this trouble, even after it is begun, so that it will not amount to much.”

A murmur of satisfaction spread through the lodge, with the expression, “Guit-är-kē tō’-zānt Thomis-sy,” or, in English, “Thomas’s talk is good;” and Kicking Bird replied, “Good! as that is your advice, we will go in to the Agency, and I will make my camp and sit down where the agent tells me.”

The cloud which had been lowering over the camp since my first arrival was lifted, and cheerfulness restored.

The next day we returned to the Agency.

We learned, by several Indians we met on the way, that several war parties of Comanches had ^{been organized} ~~started~~ for Texas since our going out to the camps, as they looked upon the commissioner’s renewed demand for the five men, after they had complied with their agreement, as a determination for war on the part of government.

It was late in the evening when we arrived at the Agency, where we found that the agent had received another ^{message} ~~telegram~~, not exactly annulling the former, but ordering a continuation of rations until further orders.