

and proposed that some of them should visit the Indians of the south-western Agencies, and hold councils with the different tribes, before that measure be resorted to.

Accordingly, Thomas Wistar and James E. Rhoads, of the committee, and M. C. Cope, all of Philadelphia, came out for that purpose, accompanied by Cyrus Beede, of the superintendent's office, and William Pickerel, of Iowa. A council was held, at the Wichita Agency, with the Indians of that reservation, and the Comanches and Apaches. Afterwards, a part of the committee had a council with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, at their own Agency, while the remaining part came to the Kiowa Agency, and held a council with the Kiowas.

As a clearer idea of the labors of these Friends can be gained from their speeches, than without them, I have taken the liberty of introducing them in these pages, having first submitted them to the Friends who delivered them, for correction.

The council was opened on the 5th day of the 4th month, 1874, by Cyrus Beede introducing the Philadelphia Friends, stating that they came representing a society who never fight either Indians or other people, who have the recommendation of the agents to Washington before they are appointed and sent among them; they are true friends of the Indians, and should their talk appear as though trouble might possibly arise, it is not because their hearts are not right; but, having been to see our father at Washington, they will speak as true friends, and tell you what Washington has to say.

Thomas Wistar then arose and said, —

“Brothers: For some time past I have felt much for you, believing that danger and trouble are fast gathering around you; and, as your old friend, it was my duty to leave my home, now in my old age, once more to take you by the hand, and see you face to face, — to show you what your present danger is, how you may avoid it, and preserve peace and happiness, not only for yourselves, but for your children.

“Brothers: I believe you have been greatly injured in many ways by bad white men, and my heart is sorry for you; but I must tell you that you yourselves are in part to blame. These white men, by entering into your country, have, by so doing, disobeyed your great father, who has made a law, intended for your protection, that no white man shall enter the Indian Territory, without first obtaining his permission.

“Brothers: Have you not, over and over again, let these men come near to your camps, traded with them, and thus encouraged them in violating the command of Washington? I believe I speak the truth when I say that no good white man will be found in your country without first having obtained the consent of your great father; and when you find such men, you should inform your agent, that he may remove them.

“Those men who come in violation of law are not your friends, — although they [may] appear to be so, — but they are your enemies, and they have caused, and will cause, trouble, so long as they are with you. Their