

the air, far above the reach of the opposite contestants, towards the goal of victory, — whose gay colors always show at the right place, at the right moment, — win for themselves more pleasing and equally appropriate encumbrances from them.

The young men are silent witnesses of the contest, which ends abruptly on the setting of the sun. Their ears were also open to the remarks of the old women. If the heart of any one of them is touched with the tender passion, he seeks acquaintance and cultivates a friendship with a brother or other near relative of the maiden, tells him of his love, and by the gift of a pony, or some valued present, procures his good offices as a friend, to intercede in his behalf, not only with the object of his affection, but with her parents. *He* magnifies the bravery, strength, courage, success in the chase, and other good qualities of his friend to his parents, conveys to his sister some present from him to herself, with information of his love and the number of ponies he possesses, and finally gives *him* an invitation to the lodge. If a favorable impression has been made, he is met at the entrance of the lodge by the object of his love, who takes his horse, unsaddles it, and lariat it out, while he is invited into the lodge by the father or brother. If she is not duly impressed with a sense of his worth and tender affection, she is not seen. Should the course of love run smooth, eventually, perhaps not for weeks, a contract is made; her value is extolled by her mother, while her father, anxious to drive as good a bargain as possible, fixes her price in ponies, blankets, or other articles of value. Terms agreed upon with the parents, he at length offers to give her all the ponies she wishes, and she names two, four, six, or eight, as she

happens to fancy; he promises to buy calico, beads, paint, &c., for her, whenever she wants them, and she finally becomes his wife, without other ceremony, and they go off to the plains after buffalo.

A quantity of meat and a number of skins secured, they return to her father's lodge, where she dresses and prepares the skins for a lodge. Eventually a new lodge appears in camp, and the tribe numbers one more family. Of course, in such matters there must necessarily be a great variety of proceedings; but the description above given shows the general practice of those tribes with which I have been most acquainted.

Sometimes a young man is poor, not able to give any ponies, and if his love is reciprocated, he elopes with her, and his friends have to settle the matter with her family, by conciliating their ire, for his having dishonorably stolen their daughter, with ponies and other valuable gifts. After this he is in no danger, and may reside in the camp of her people.

When a man takes a wife belonging to another tribe, he goes and lives with her, as his own tribe hold him thereafter in light esteem. Among most of the tribes a man may have more than one wife, and in some instances as many as six; usually each wife has a separate lodge, in which she and her children reside, while the lord of the family is at home in any one of them, and occupies them at his pleasure.

Among the Comanches frequent instances of desertion occur, but it is of more seldom occurrence with the Kiowas and Apaches. Parental affection is very strong, and more strongly manifested towards the boys; both parents are proud of a son — a young warrior — who may become a great man in his tribe, while in a daugh-