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THE INSTINCTS OF INDIAN CHILDREN. (bochese's Stronghold) in luguet 1872

A friend writing me the other day intimated that my life was once saved by some papooses. This is hardly correct version of the story. Permit me to a few scenes that were preliminary to the event referred to.

Along the western slope of the Dragoon range of in Arizona mountains, and some fourteen or fifteen miles south of the Tucson wagon-road, issues a stream of water, clear as crystal healthful, cool and refreshing. Near the foothills through which the brooklet flows, were in 1872 several liveoak trees short and stumpy, yet having sufficient expanse to afford us agreable shade. Under one of these trees between eight and nine in the morning, my party consisting of three white men and two New Mexico Apaches, made a halt.

We unsaddled our horses and mules and relieved the packanimals from their tiresome loads. We had made a long journey
of several hundred miles from the east-ward, having already
crossed three ranges of mountains, and except a short in a
dry camp, we had continued our march through the previous
night; the sun was very hot and any experienced traveller in
warm climes can realize the sudden animation, aye,
the manifestation of joy which the whole party took on,
cluding the animals, when our eyes fell upon the pearling
stream, the bordering grassand the shade-trees roundabout;
we were fatigued and greatly needed sleep, yet, the first thing
we did was to get our our breakfast and spread it upon our
canvass table extended upon the ground.

As we sat, the five of us, Captain Sladeh Mr.

Jefferds the interpreter, Ponce and Chie [the two Indians]

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able shade, and slept till it was time for the next meal.

It was now in the afternoon. After our dinner had been cooked and quietly eaten, Ponce called our attention to a distant object; it was evidently a horse coming toward us from the north-west, and when somewhat nearer, with our glasses we saw that the horse was carrying two Indians. We waited with some curiosity for their approach; when near enough, we descried that the Indians were two lads , one about ten, the other perhaps fourteen years of age. They had no saddle, but were guiding with the owstomary rope-bridle tied around the under jaw of the horse. They came to our party, dismounted, sat down quietly, ate some crackers and drank some coffeethat we gave them, nonwhile hardly speaking a word, certainly nothing to indicate the object of their visit. The the eldest said in Apache, which was transmitted to me through Spanish into English by Ponce and alls Jefferds " Chie says you are to come !"

At once we secup the animals, packs saddle and mounted. The boys point the direction for us to take, but never would go ahead; they admired our clothes, boots, spurs and other things, surveying each article and studying it with minuteness. We follow the path by which they had come for, I should think, six or seven miles; first north-ward and then west-ward

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The inhabitants were the old men, women and children of the robber chieftain and his captains, as he called them, with their various followers, who had gone out in different One sub-chief -a vigorous young Indian their living ". about thirty years of age, I should judge, - named Nahta , was in charge of the camp. Cochist himself was not yet to be seen.

It was sun-down when we arrived . After we had arranged our camp and spread our blankets on the ground for a bed, Nahta gathered his people atound our camp-fire, which was lighted more for the cheer of it than from any necessity. Ponce and Chie conversed with him , and gave the substance of what Nahta said. The talk was not very cheery, nor very Kofet coming hopeful. We must wait and see; the answer would commanal (tomorrow). Perhaps the most aggravating word in the Spanish language is that word manana, paticularly when it is repeated: manana - manana ! The circumstances are the more trying when your life or your death hangs upon the word.

The bright scene ended when our party broke up, the women and the old men went away to the sloping debris for thet night-camps. Without further waiting we pillowed our headsupon our saddles, and stretched ourselves upon the ground with one Rumber blanket for A bed, and one for cover.

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I took their conduct as a harbinger of peace, as we all did, and so slept comfortably till the morning-light. During that morning the old chieftain with his tall figure and dignified deportment revealed himself to us, coming from some unknown snuggery, listened to our Indians and our story, and we began then and there the negotiations of a peace which lasted as long as he lived Maj-general us Army

Governon's Island, N.Y. December 16th 1893.

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New York City.

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We unsaddled our horses and mules and relieved the packanimals from their tiresome loads. We had made a long journey
of several hundred miles from the eastward, having already
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As we sat under the shade of the oak, the five of us, Captain Slader - Mr. Jefferds the interpreter, - Ponce and Chie (the two Indians) eating our meagre fare and sipping our coffee, we tried to plan for the next steps in hunting for the old chief, who had so long eluded our search. Ponce said something which Jefferds interpreted: he is yonder - pointing northward to a jaggy cliff a few miles away. Next, with only one remark our handsome young Indian - a son of Mangus Colorado - whom I have called Chie, sprang up and ran straight to the jagged cliff. As I watched him ascending the height I asked "What did he say?" I was told that it was something to the effect "I will go to the old chief's camp." All the rest lay down in the comfortable shade, and slept till it was time for the next meal.

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At once we caught up the animals, packed, saddled, and mounted. The boys pointed the direction for us to take, but never would go ahead; they admired our clothes, boots spurs and other things, surveying each article and studying it with minuteness. We followed the path by which they had come for a according to Estimate distance, I should judge, of six or seven miles; first northward and then westward, passing into the heart of the Dragggoon range; we passed a narrow defile, and then issued into a sudden opening, a tract of about forty acres of grassland; here this opening appeared surrounded by walls varying in height from one hundred to three hundred feet; a stream of water coursed through the middle, - the debris of rocks had formed slopes along the boundaries of the place and a few live oaks gave variety to the landscape, so hemmed in, and shelter from the sun to the inhabitants, a shelter only needed a few hours about midday.

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Governor's Island, N.Y. City,

December 16th 1893.

Major General O. O. HOWARD, U.S. Army.

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Major General O. O. HOWARD, U.S. Army.

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December 18th 1883.

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