

of native eloquence relates much of this young man's past and predicts his future, tells of his brave ancestors and their deeds, ending by calling upon the Great Spirit to look after and protect him always.

And now to business after this send off. The tom-tom beaters, four in number, occupy the south side of the lodge, start the ball again rolling, the whistle placed in the young man's mouth keeping time with them, his feet rising and falling to the time of the tom-tom, gradually creeps closer to the centre pole while the head slowly sinks to the rear, till the body reaches an angle of about forty-five degrees, and the whole weight of his body is supported by the two particles of skin under which the skewers pass; and now the dance in earnest begins, he hopping up and down to the time of the tom-tom moves along in a quarter circle, and the skin on the breast is stretched away out from the flesh like a piece of elastic. All this time he keeps up the same bob and as well is obliged to resound on his whistle to every tap of their drums, on he goes, tom, tom, tom, tom, toot, toot, toot, toot, will he ever fall; down goes the turtle shell, the continued strain of its weight has broken away from the skin, still on he goes; one begins to wonder what kind of a hide this youth possesses, when suddenly down he goes, while hanging from the place where the skewers occupied, is lacerated skin and torn flesh, bleeding freely, this trickling down over his painted carcass. It's but a second he remains on the ground, for with a bound like a jumping deer, he is on his feet and strides majestically away to take a place among the fighting men of his nation.

Just as this act came to a close one of the scouts came and told us of one who would shortly pay a promised vow to the sun for its care and good-

ness to him when in danger, so we strolled over in his direction to the west of the great lodge.

This man possesses two names "Prairie Chicken Old Man" or "Following Person." Indians are strangely named. I believe it is their habit when about to name a child just to step out of the lodge and the first object that the eye rests upon is the name; for instance, take this man's name, the one who named him upon stepping out caught sight of a prairie chicken and an old man at the same time, with the result "Prairie Chicken Old Man," the second time he was named I presume the first seen was one man following another, consequently "Following Person," but to continue, it appears that the man in question had been over in Montana, U.S., on a horse stealing expedition against their old enemies the Gros Ventres; they had no difficulty in running off with a few ponies, but were overtaken by their enemies and of course the question of owners was not settled by arbitration. During the skirmish that followed our friend found himself pretty well corralled, and the only avenue of escape was blocked by a Gros Ventres, here he offered up a prayer to the Great Spirit, promising that if he would aid him to escape, he, while the sun dance was going on, would present him with his little finger in return for his assistance. Shortly after making this offer an opportunity presented itself for raising himself up from behind a stump, saw his opponent crouched close to earth on the other side, quietly and quickly he placed the muzzle of his rifle within an inch of his enemy's head, raised the blockade and caused Mr. Gros Ventres to "get a jersey" on for the happy hunting grounds; in a very short time, "Prairie Chicken Old Man" was safe among his friends.

And now he's about to pay the vow