

The Third Arrow

his son because he disobeyed his commands and thereby saved the army from destruction, but if the incident is true, which I have always doubted, the father proved he was a criminal fool, who ought to have been hanged for murder. I prefer to believe that the Comanche war chief was largely actuated by his affection for his son. It is surely to his credit if such were the fact.

Walter Brinton's thoughts now naturally turned to his parent and uncle. They were somewhere in advance, but he could not believe they had been as fortunate as he in securing their horses. They must be hurrying forward on foot. Saladin swung into an easy canter, a gait which he could maintain for hours without tiring. Several miles were passed in this manner, when the rider was startled by the sound of what seemed a rifle shot. He drew his pony down to a walk and headed in the direction whence came the report.

The sight of the dead mustang filled him with wondering perplexity, for it was impossible to figure out the explanation. He noted that the animal had not belonged to his father or uncle, since he was without saddle