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ALCHESAY

Supt. Charles L. Davis, well known in the Indian Service, writes the following facts of Alchesay, and George Nickolson has compiled the same for publication:

In 1875 General Crook had brought all the outlaw Apaches under control of the government. Most of them had settled down on the land that was allotted to them, or that they chose and cleared. General Crook promised all these Indians that such land as they would clear and cultivate that land should be theirs.

In the years that followed some of the Indians did not act right, and some of the actions of those that were over them were not right, and frequent changes caused much dissatisfaction among the Indians until in 1882, when trouble seemed almost inevitable, General Crook was sent back and the following was Alchesay's speech of welcome:

"When you left, there were no bad Indians out. We were all content; everything was peace. The officers you had here were all taken away, and new ones came in—a different kind. The good ones must all have been taken away and the bad ones sent in their places.

"We couldn't make out what they wanted; one day they seemed to want one thing, the next day something else. Perhaps we were to blame, perhaps they were; but, anyhow, we hadn't any confidence in them. We were planting our own corn and melons and making our own living. The agent at San Carlos never gave us any rations, but we didn't mind that, as we were taking care of ourselves.

"One day the agent at San Carlos sent up and said that we must give up our own country and our corn patches and go down there to live, and he sent Indian soldiers to seize our women and children and drive us all down to that hot land.

"Vclenni" and I were doing all we could to help the whites, when we were both put in the guardhouse. All that I have ever done has been honest; I have always been true and obeyed orders: I made campaigns against the Apaches, Yumas, Tontos, Pinalenos, and all kinds of other people, and even went against my own people.

"When the Indians broke out at the San Carlos, when Major Randall was here, I helped him to go and fight them. I have been in all the campaigns

"When Major Randall was here we were all happy; when he promised a thing he did it; when he said a word he meant it; but all that he did was for our own good and we believed in him and we think of him yet. Where has he gone? Why don't he come back? Others have come to see us since he left, but they talk to us in one way and act in another, and we can't believe what they say.

"They say this man is bad, and that man is bad. I think that the trouble is, they, themselves, are bad. Oh, where is my friend Randall—the captain with the mustache which he always pulled? Why don't he come back? He was my brother and I think of him all the time."

Jim Reed who was with Alchesay on all his trips between the scout camps and the outlaw camps tells the following:

"IN THE DAYS OF 1884"

"My good friend Alchesay in gone. Many days we were together, and often we crossed the mountains together. That was in the days of 1884 when we were still young men. But I have not forgotten my good friend, even now, when he is gone.

"Sometimes I sit for a long time and think about my good friend, Alchesay, and about my good friend, General Crook—when we were together and fighting against the outlaws. Let me tell you a story about them:

"One time General Crook said to Alchesay, 'Don't think that I am over you, or that you are over me; we are going into Mexico.'"

"About this time a brother-in-law of Geronimo, an outlaw by the name of X—, was captured and put in chains. He was taken at San Carlos and brought to Wilcox. General Crook was at this time absent on business at Chihuahua City, but in the days following he returned to Wilcox, and there he found X—.

"On the same day that he returned he wanted to hold court. And so court was called.

"Alchesay said to General Crook, take off those shoe-strings (chains) from X—; they are too tough to wear; they will last too long. Also take off those bracelets (handcuffs) from him; I want my brother to wear shoestrings the same as I wear. Whoever owns the shoestrings that he has now come and get them. X— has done many things; he has taken horses and

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