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The Bear Boy Becomes Ungrateful.

AMONG the old legends of the Indians is one of the wicked stepfather and his stepson who lived like a bear.

A stepfather had a stepson whom he did not like at all, and he spent much of his time in thinking how he could get rid of him. One day as the stepfather was walking along through the fields he saw a porcupine's hole. "Just the thing," said he to himself. "I will get the boy to crawl in there and then I will stop up the hole so that he cannot get out."

So he called the boy, saying: "See here, I have found a porcupine's nest. I want you to creep into the hole and catch some of the young ones. Come, crawl in." The boy did as he was bid and the stepfather closed up the hole and made him prisoner.

When the boy found he had been betrayed by his stepfather, and was practically buried alive, he cried until he had cried himself to sleep.

When he awoke he found himself in a room and saw an old woman walking about. She told the boy that she was not a porcupine, but only appeared like one when she went out hunting for food; at home she was just like any old woman.

The boy said he was hungry and the porcupine-woman brought him

something to eat, but it was so bitter that he could not swallow it.

"Oh, ho!" said the old woman, "what shall I do? You cannot eat what I eat and so you will starve to death."

Then she called about her a council of animals—bears, deers, foxes, wolves, etc., and asked them what she should do with the boy.

"Does anybody know," asked the porcupine woman, "what it is that human beings eat?"

"They eat deer," said the deer.

"They eat bear," said the bear.

"They eat wolves," said the wolf.

"They eat foxes," said the fox. And so on, each of the animals assembled declared that human beings were fond of his tribe as food.

"I would take the boy to live with me," said the fox, "but I live on geese and fowls and he can't eat raw food."

Thus, in turn, every animal told what they lived upon and declared that it was not proper food for a boy.

At last the bear spoke and said: "I live on nuts and he can come and live with me and have the company of my young ones." So the boy was adopted by the big she bear and became foster brother to the little bears which lived in the hollow of a great oak tree.

He lived on nuts and grew up to