

Weekly Chemawa American

VOL. 10.

JANUARY 24, 1908.

NO. 31

Indian Legend

The Bird That Wanted to be Pretty.

BY

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As you all have heard, the creatures and animals talked and lived together in the early days. There came a time when they all had to enjoy a different life and each kind to live in different places. It seems as though there was some one in the village who had the power of telling the creatures and animals of how and where each tribe should live.

The first little animal that spoke up was the rabbit; he said he wanted to be a little elk. They told him that if he could go through the brush, tearing and breaking the limbs and branches as he went, he could be what he asked to be. So he leaped, but there was no noise.

The captain said, "You shall be a rabbit instead because you didn't make any noise when you disappeared." So to this day when you see him jump you can't hear him.

Now the bird that wanted to be pretty was the crow. He was always talking about how pretty he wanted to be. Some

of the birds were being painted. He saw how pretty the woodpecker's head was painted and how pretty the humming bird looked after he was painted. He was so anxious regarding how he should be painted that he talked continually to the painters of how he should be decorated with paint. All the birds were not to be painted—only the small birds. Now if the crow hadn't talked so much of being painted he would have been a prettier bird than he is now.

Finally the painters in a chorus said "We are ready for you," and they told him to close his eyes and he did as he was told. He did not know they were going to play a joke on him. Now the painters started in on him. They told him how pretty they were going to paint him and he promised that he would not open his eyes.

Four painters started to paint him from his beak and they even painted the bottoms of his feet. When they were through with him they told him not to open his eyes until he had lit on something after he had flown a little ways. He lit upon a rock and opened his eyes. He was surprised to find himself painted black from head to foot. The only word he said was "caw" after he looked upon himself and to this day you can hear him saying, "caw, caw," which means black.