



LITTLE GROWLING BIRD



About the end of KUSH-KUD-ENE KEEZIS, the FREEZING MOON (November), the Indians have a feast day, giving thanks to the GREAT SPIRIT for the plentiful harvest of corn and potatoes and berries and other good things they have gathered during the summer and laid up against the coming of winter.

One morning NOKOMIS said to LITTLE GROWLING BIRD: "Today heap big feast-day. Go pick pailful MUSH-KEG-MIN, the CRANBERRY. So LITTLE GROWLING BIRD and AUNDAK, the CROW, started off.



Now the CRANBERRY MARSH was just outside the boundaries of the REFUGE GROUND, and on that account AUNDAK kept a sharp lookout for any prowling beast that might try to harm the little boy. There was no one in sight when they came to the place, except a big black bird that was so busy picking up and swallowing the ripe berries that he never noticed them. It is MES-E-SAY, the wild TURKEY GOBBLER!" said AUNDAK, "and he is the greediest bird in all WINDEGO LAND."



When TURKEY-GOBBLER saw LITTLE GROWLING BIRD and AUNDAK filling their pail with the cranberries he became very angry indeed. He was so full of the hard round berries himself that he couldn't swallow another one! Yet MES-E-SAY was so greedy that he did not want any one else to have a single one. He ruffled up all his feathers and scraped the tips of his wings on the ground, while his head and neck turned scarlet with rage. He came running toward the little boy. "What! Stealing MY cranberries, are you?" he said. "GOBBLE! GIBBLE!! GOBBLE!!! I'll gobble you up!"



GREEDY GOBBLER was almost as tall as the little boy and twice as fierce. He would surely have knocked him down and pecked him severely, but—just in the nick of time—who should come upon the scene but BIG BEAR himself! He had a little black bear by the paw, but he dropped him and, in a minute, had grabbed Mr. GREEDY GOBBLER by his red neck and, with the other paw, gave him such a blow on the head that GOBBLER dropped dead on the spot!

It was too bad, but AUNDAK said it served him right for trying to bully and injure LITTLE GROWLING BIRD.



There was nothing else to do now but to gather up the spilled berries and tie the legs of MES-E-SAY, the TURKEY, across a long pole and carry him back to the WIGWAM.

"NOKOMIS will know what to do with Mr. GOBBLER!" said AUNDAK, with a sly wink at BIG BEAR. But that wise old fellow made no reply—only licked his lips a little as they came in sight of the WIGWAM. NOKOMIS was greatly pleased when she saw the fine big TURKEY. She quickly dressed it, and, while it was cooking, BIG BEAR introduced his nephew.



MUK-UDAY MUK-KOONS (LITTLE BLACK BEAR) was the full name of BIG BEAR'S nephew, but his uncle called him "Koons" (Little One) for short. He was VERY hungry, and could hardly wait till the table was set. NOKOMIS gave thanks to KEZHA MUH-NEDO, the GOOD SPIRIT, for all their good fortune, and then began the first THANKSGIVING DINNER—of roast TURKEY and CRANBERRY SAUCE—ever eaten in WINDEGO LAND! So, ever since then, the INDIANS and the PALEFACE PEOPLE give thanks for good crops and eat MES-E-SAY, the TURKEY, for dinner. A. T. C.