

steps in the snow—for an Indian or a Canadian hunter knows the track made by any bird or beast, from the deep broad print of the bear, to the tiny one of the little shrew-mouse, which is the smallest four-footed beast in this or any other country, to the best of my knowledge.”

“They catch the otter, and many other wild animals in a sort of trap which they call a dead-fall. This, I believe, is a hole dug in the ground, according to the size of the creature they desire to catch, and lightly covered with sticks and earth. When the animal falls in, he is unable to get out, and is easily captured. Wolves are often so trapped, and then shot. The Indians catch the otter for the sake of its dark shining fur, which is used by the hatters and furriers. Old Jacob Snow-storm, an old Indian that lived on the banks of the Rice Lake, used to catch many otters; and I have often listened to him, and laughed at his stories.”

“Do, please nurse, tell me what Old Jacob Snow-storm told you about the otters; I like to hear stories about wild beasts. What a droll name, Snow-storm!”

“Yes, Lady Mary, Indians have very odd names; they are called after all sorts of strange things. They do not always name the children as we do soon after they are born, but wait for some remarkable circumstance, some dream or accident. Some name them after the first strange animal or bird that appears to the new born. Old Snow-storm most likely owed his name to a heavy fall of snow when he was a baby. I knew a Chief named Musk-rat, and a pretty Indian girl who was named ‘Be-dan-bun,’ or the ‘Light of the Morning.’”

“And what is the Indian name for Old Snow-storm?”

“It is Be-che-go-ke-poor.” Lady Mary said it was a funny sounding name, and not at all like Snow-storm, which she liked a great deal better; and she was greatly amused while her nurse repeated to her a great many names of the squaws and papposes, (the little Indian children.) There were among them such names, as the Long Thrush and the Little Fox; the Running Stream, the Snow Bird, the Red Cloud, and the Young Eagle; the Big Bush, and many others.

“Now, nurse, will you tell me some more about Jacob Snow-storm and the others?”