

13. THE BEAVER AND THE PORCUPINE.

Once upon a time the Porcupine was on a small island. It began to rain and the waters began to rise, so that it was cut off from retreat to the mainland. It cried and sang: "I wish it would cease raining; I wish it would grow cold and the waters would freeze over." (This song is said to be sung in both the Tlingit and the Ts'ets'ā'ut languages.) Then the clouds dispersed, and the waters began to freeze over. The Porcupine succeeded in reaching the shore, but not without difficulty, since the ice was very slippery. The Beaver met it and said: "You must stay at home when the branches of the trees are covered with frost, else you will fall down and break your bones." The Porcupine replied: "Henceforth you shall live in rivers and in lakes."

NOTE. — This is a very imperfect record of a well-known tradition of the Tsimshian. (Boas, *l. c.* p. 305; Petitot, *l. c.* p. 234, collected among the Hare Indians.) The fullest record of this tradition was obtained on Nass River. The remark of the Ts'ets'ā'ut from whom I obtained the tale, to the effect that the song is sung in both the Tlingit and Ts'ets'ā'ut languages, seems to indicate that the tale must be familiar to the Tlingit also.

14. TSŪFA'.

Once upon a time two young men went hunting porcupines. They found a den under a rock, and one of them crawled in. While they were there a Tsūfa' came, and when the young man saw him he called his companion, shouting: "A Tsūfa' is coming." But the Tsūfa' did not kill the young man. He pitied him and made friends with him. In vain he tried to induce the young man who had crawled into the cave to come out, promising to adopt him and help him in all his undertakings. He would not come. Finally the Tsūfa' grew angry, and defecated in front of the entrance to the den, thus imprisoning the young man. He left him to perish in the cave.

He placed the other one on his head and carried him to his home. When the two young men were missed by their friends and parents, the people set out to find them, but a fresh snow had covered their tracks as well as those of the Tsūfa'.

The giant reached a frozen lake in which there were a great many beaver dams. There he stopped. With his hands he scooped up the beaver dams and shook them, so that all the beavers dropped out. Then he killed them by filling them. He singed them over a fire, and ate them when they were done. A beaver was just a mouthful for him. The young man ate part of one beaver only.