

II. THE GIRL WHO MARRIED THE JAW BONE OF A WHALE, AND THE ONE WHO MARRIED THE WING BONE OF AN EAGLE.^a

There was once a number of young girls who took for their husbands anything that they could get, even such things as stones and bones of dead animals or people.

A girl once took a stone for her husband, and because she did this she was turned into a stone.^b

Another took a whale's jaw bone for her husband,^c and then the jaw bone turned^d into a living whale, which carried her off into the water, and to an island.^e After they got to the island the whale turned into a man;^d and they lived there as man and wife. Then the father and mother^f of the girl set out in a boat to get her. Her husband, fearing she might try to get away, tied one end of a line, such as was used in fishing, around her, and fastened the end of it to a stake used in stretching skins. This stake was driven into the ground inside the tent, so that she could go out and around as far as the line would let her go.

When the girl's father and mother came to get her, she was out of the tent, and her husband was inside; so he could not see her. She kept the line as tight as usual, and, untying it from herself, tied it to a stake, so that it would be kept tight. She then got into the boat, and went off with her father and mother. Her husband thought she was there, because the line was tight. At last he pulled on the line to bring her in, but it did not move. Then he pulled harder; the stake came up, and he pulled in the line, and saw the stake at the end of it. He then went out to look for her, and saw that she was gone. So he turned into a whale,^d and went after the boat as it was going off.

When he began to catch up to the boat in which was his wife, with her father and mother, they threw out her boots. Coming to these he

^a This story in substance was also known in Greenland and is recorded as "A Tale about Two Girls." Rink, 8th Tale, p. 126, as constructed from two manuscripts, one from Labrador and the other written down in Greenland prior to 1828.

^b The girl that took the stone for a husband is not included in the story recorded by Rink.

^c In "A Tale about Two Girls," the girls were playing with the bones of the whale and eagle, and did not take the bones for their husbands, but took the living whale and eagle that came when each said she would have such a one for her husband.

^d There is no transformation of bones to animals or animals to men, and vice versa, in the tale recorded by Rink, but the real animals appear at such times, except in the one instance where the whale turns into a piece of whalebone.

^e In "A Tale about Two Girls," the whale takes the girl to the bottom of the sea, after making her eyes and ears impenetrable. There she had to pick parasitic crustaceans off his body when he was at home.

^f In the tale recorded by Rink, the brothers go for her, not the parents. They try three times before succeeding in building a boat sufficiently swift for the task of rescuing her from the whale. The one which they use rivals the sea birds in swiftness.