

No. 24.

THE TAILLESS STURGEON.

Told by John York.

One time there was a family camping at Sturgeon Lake (Victoria County). One day the old man went out to fish through the ice, and while fishing he saw a queer-looking fish. He speared it and killed it, then took it home and cooked it; all the family ate of it, and in a very short time they all took sick and died. These sturgeon from Sturgeon Lake are descended from a serpent which was cut in two a long time ago, but lived and bred young ones with no tails.

Note.—John York said he used to camp at Sturgeon Lake years ago. Had heard these sturgeon jumping at night, but had never caught any.

Sturgeon Lake has no sturgeon. The name may be given to it from its shape. There are no sturgeon in this chain of lakes, now known as the Kawartha Lakes.

No. 25.

NANABUSH AND THE DUCKS. (No. 8.)

Told by John York.

One time Nanabush was walking, very tired and hungry. He came to a lake and looking around he saw a very nice sandy beach. Well, he thought, this is a nice shore to kill some ducks. There were lots of ducks on the lake. He called one of the ducks which came to him. He asked the duck, "Is your Chief Duck here at any place?" "Yes. He is here at the present time. He is chief of all kinds of ducks," the duck replied. Nanabush then said, "I would like to see him and have a talk." The duck said, "If you would like to see him I will go and get him." Nanabush said, "Yes, go and bring him here." The Chief Duck came. "Well," Nanabush said, "do you know what is going to take place here very soon?" "No," said the Chief Duck. "Well," said Nanabush, "there is going to be a big dance." "Who is going to furnish the music?" said the Chief Duck. "I am going to furnish the music," said Nanabush and he reached out his hand and got his drum and began to sing, which made the Chief Duck dance right there. "Well," said the Chief Duck, "when is this big dance coming off?" Nanabush said, "If you like to have it to-night, we can have it to-night." "Well, it just suits me, and I will tell all the kinds of ducks to come," said the Chief Duck. This pleased Nanabush very much, and the Chief Duck went away.

Nanabush got everything ready. He made a big camp and made a big fire inside. Night came and all the ducks came in from all around. About dark Nanabush started to sing. He told the ducks that as soon as they came inside they would have to close their eyes. He started singing one of his songs which pleased all the ducks. He told them, "The time is now on" and all the ducks started to come in dancing with their eyes closed. He told them that they had to pass through right in front of him. Every one of them passed him and he grabbed them and twisted their necks. He got a lot of them, but one opened his eyes a little bit and saw what Nanabush was doing. This duck made a big yell and told all the (remaining) ducks what Nanabush was doing, and made for the door, but before he got out Nanabush kicked him and stepped on his feet (we now call this duck the Diver).