

(43) THE TURTLE AND THE THUNDER-BIRD.¹

Told by Jim French, Muncie.

Once a Turtle was living all alone in a lake. Several times he was suddenly struck by something, but when he came out to see what it was that had struck him, he saw nothing. One day after he had been struck, he thought he would get someone to help him find the person who had been striking him. He went into the woods and called out, "Who will help me, who will help me?" A Deer ran out from a bush and said, "I will help you." "Come on," said the Turtle, "but first let me see how you fight." The Deer started to fight a tree and broke its horns. Then the Turtle said, "You will not last long." He left the Deer and again called out, "Who will help me?" A Bear came out and said, "I will help you." He told the bear to show how well he could fight. The Bear started to fight the tree, but he was so clumsy in jumping around that the Turtle told him he would not last long when he fought the giant whom the Turtle was after. He began again to call for help, when he came to a little swamp and heard someone say, "We will." The Turtle called to them to come out and show how they could fight. A big crowd of little Turtles came out and started to fight him, so that they almost killed him. He told them that they were the ones he was looking for, and he marched them off to the lake where he lived and left them just outside. Suddenly a big stone fell down upon the little Turtles and killed them all. When the Turtle ran out to see what had happened, he saw a big bird flying overhead. He ran to his neighbour who had ducked into the water when the bird appeared, and said, "What bird was that?" The big Snake answered, "A Thunder-bird, and I am very much afraid of it."

Since then the Turtle will stay under the water when there is a thunder-storm.

(44) THE RACCOON AND THE BLIND MAN.

Told by John Henry, Kettle Point.

Once a Raccoon was living near a lake all winter, and in the spring he came out to find something to eat. As he walked along, he saw a basswood-bark string. He followed this up until he came

¹ Cf. Tale 30.