

(42) THE MAN WHO WENT IN SEARCH OF A WIFE.

Told by John Henry, Kettle Point.

Once Wawasung lived on the shore of a lake, where he hunted every day. One day he decided to hunt for a wife. Before he set out for this purpose, he caught and killed a bear, a raccoon, and a deer, plucked out their hair, and put it into a bag. Now he was ready to go and hunt for his wife.

On the following day he started out along the shore of the lake. He walked all day, and in the evening pitched his tipi and slept. Early the next morning he continued on his journey, and about noon he came upon the tracks of a woman, pointing in the same direction as he was walking. In the evening he again pitched his tipi and went to sleep. When he awoke, he walked along the shore until he came to a tree. He sat down and whittled a piece of wood, and carried some of the shavings back to the tipi.

The following morning, as the woman was walking along the lake, she noticed the place where the man had sat the day before. She sat down in the same place and said, "I wish that the man who sat here were sitting here with me." When she left, she took some of the shavings to make a fire.

The man knew what the woman had said while sitting on the log, and he thought that the next morning he would sit down on the log where he could not be seen by the woman. So, in the morning, he went and sat down on the log, and after a while the woman came and sat down also, but she did not see the man. Then she said aloud, "I would like to marry that man." Then the man spoke and said, "Well, I will marry you." He took the woman to his home.

That evening he told the woman to take the bear's hair, which he had saved, and put it in a hollow tree and in the morning return to the tree and see what had happened. The woman did as she was told, and in the morning she found a bear in the tree. She told the man about the bear, and he went out and killed it. That evening she put the raccoon's hair into the tree, and in the morning there were two raccoons there, which the man killed. Then she put the deer's hair somewhere near their house, and when she got to the house, she saw many deer which he also killed. Then they went home and must be living there yet.