

Myths and Folk-lore of the Timiskaming Algonquin and Timagami Ojibwa.

CHAPTER I.

MYTHS AND FOLK-LORE OF THE TIMISKAMING ALGONQUIN.

INTRODUCTION.

A few fairly typical Algonquin myths relating the exploits of Wiske'djak were taken down in the summer of 1913 from Benjamin Mackenzie of the Timiskaming band. He had learned them when a young man from Algonquins near Dumoine lake¹ at the head of Dumoine river. These versions are also current at Timiskaming, as I found by testing a few incidents with other informants, who, however, knew only of fragments. These myths also are not considered entirely complete.

The trickster-transformer Wiske'djak "meat bird" is the personified Canada Jay or "Whisky Jack" (*Perisoreus* sp.). He is not in the least altruistic, though he seems to have in mind some provision for the Indians, as appears more particularly in story number 4. For the most part his transformations are semi-accidental. It seems hardly worth while at the present time to comment in detail on the transformer concept here, as it is my intention to pursue investigations further in this general

¹ This band is known locally as *Ki-ise 'gomani'osea'bi* "Turn back lake Indians." Their rendezvous was at Fort William. Their range extended around Lake Dumoine and down Dumoine river to the Ottawa river.