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Nine Fox legends collected by Truman Michelson,
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1879

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS

Stock Algonquian

Language Fox

Dialect

Description: (words, vocabulary, dictionary, grammar, text, legends, notes)

Collector Dr. Michelson

Place Tama, Ia.

Date

Remarks 8 legends; listed on Card No. 2 in File.

The Rabbit and Bear.

Once there lived some Indians, in a large village long time ago when there use to be a lot of young boys and young girls, and old folks, when they lived under a Chief. Then this bear was going to give a sacred feast, he got some things for it, then he invited Rabbit

so Rabbit went
over. Bear said
"I want you to
cook these things
for my feast"
to Rabbit.

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He said, "alright"
Rabbit began to
put the meat on
to boil then he
stepped out to
call the people
to come who was
to eat. Then Bear
dressed in his
finest suit,
when the people
had gathered he

began to sing for
them to dance.

In his song he
was singing
about the Rabbit
who was cooking
for his feast.
He sang, "You
rabbit, you rab-
bit, you sitting up
with your long
ears, you rabbit,
you rabbit, we
are sitting here
with our long
ears. You rabbit,
you rabbit."

The Bear sang
this song, while

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the rabbit didn't care a bit to song, but he just danced as hard as he could. Rabbit was all dressed up fine also. He didn't feel a bit offended at the song. After the dance was over and the people were starting home, the rabbit turned and asked the Bear to come over to his home

so the Bear went
over and the
Rabbit asked
him to do like-
wise, to cook for
his sacred feast.

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So it was the
Bear's turn to
cook for the
Rabbits feast.

"Well," said the
Rabbit I tried very
hard to think of
who could help
me out in my
sacred feast so
I happened to
think of you in
return so that

is why I called
upon you, said
the Rabbit. Just
before the dance
started. So the
rabbit began his
singing, "You
bear, you bear,
you bear, you
bear, you sitting
so small around
your waist like
you bear, you bear
sitting with your
great big mouth,
and with your
very wide claws,
you bear, you bear,
with your big
eyes." And here

this bear got so
angry at the song
of the rabbit.

The bear started
to grab the rabbit
but the rabbit
got away and ran
out just as the
bear was going
to grab him.

The rabbit use
to have a long
tail but when
the bear was
about to get ahold
of him he got
his tail and
pulled it off so
the rabbit was

left without a tail

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That is why rabbits have just a little cotton ball for a tail. And that they are not harmful as the bear. The bear got so angry at the rabbit, but when the bear sang about the rabbit, he did not get angry like the bear did. So these people that were dancing got scared and ran out

the dancing stop-
ped. And Cotton
tail ran in
the woods and
hid where he
is to day.

The End.



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