Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at [http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content](http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content).

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.
PENOBSCOT TALES.

BY F. G. SPECK.

I. THE TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES OF RABBIT. ¹

(a) Rabbit tries to outdo his Host the Woodpecker.

Here lives my story. Rabbit went to visit his friend Woodpecker. When he came to the door, Woodpecker said, "Come in and sit down!" There was a stump just outside the wigwam. "I have nothing to eat," said Woodpecker, "but I will go now and get something for our dinner." Then up the stump he went, and began to dig worms out of the wood with his beak. "These," said he, "are eels for our dinner. I always get them in this way." And when he had enough "eels," he cooked them, and the two had their dinner.

Then Rabbit invited Woodpecker to come over and visit him at his house in the brush, and have dinner. When Woodpecker arrived, Rabbit said, "Now I'll go and get our dinner. You sit down and wait." He took a piece of bone with a point to it and tied it to his forehead, as the woodpecker has its beak. Then he tried to climb up a tree near his wigwam, as Woodpecker had done. Up he got a little way by dint of hard scrambling; but his paws slipped, and down he came flat on his back with a thud that drove all the breath out of his body. Up the tree he clawed his way again. This time he got farther, and tried to dig worms ("eels") out of the wood, jabbing in with his bone as he had seen Woodpecker do; but he lost his hold, fell all the way down, and got killed. When Woodpecker saw what had happened, he came out and jumped over the dead Rabbit twice. The second time Rabbit came to life. "Now you go lie down. You are sick. You can't do anything now, you are sick. I'll get the dinner," said Woodpecker to him. Then he went up the tree, dug out the "eels," cooked them, and they had their dinner.

(b) Rabbit tries to imitate his Host Kingfisher.

Now Rabbit went visiting again. He saw Kingfisher sitting before his wigwam on a branch overhanging the water. Whenever a fish swam by, Kingfisher would dive in and spear it with his beak. When he had enough fish, he came down and invited Rabbit to come in and have dinner with him. After they had eaten, Rabbit wanted to get some fish, as Kingfisher had done. So he went out on the branch; and when he saw a fish, he dived in to get it. But he could

¹ Narrated by Joe Solomon, Oldtown, Me.
not swim, and nearly drowned before Kingfisher could get him out. Then, when he felt better, Rabbit went on.

(c) Rabbit kills the Young Fishers and is pursued.

Next Rabbit came upon a camp of Fishers, the young ones and the old mother at home. He took a poking-stick from near the fire, and knocked them all on the head until they were dead. Then he ran away into the thicket. When the old Fisher came home and found his family killed, he struck Rabbit’s trail and started after him. He trailed him into the thicket, and soon began to gain on him. When Rabbit saw that he was losing, he turned himself into a priest striding before his church reading his prayer-book. When Fisher came along, he asked the priest, “Did you see a rabbit go by here?” The priest held up his hand for silence, not to interrupt him in his prayers. In a few minutes he asked him again the same question. “Yes,” said the priest, “there are a lot of rabbits around here. The swamp yonder is full of them.” “Well,” said Fisher, “I’m looking for the rabbit who killed all my family;” and he was going to start on again. “Stop a while before you go, and have something to eat and drink,” said the priest. Then they went into the church, and the priest gave Fisher some wine and bread. “Put the pieces of bread into your shirt,” said the priest: “you will need them soon, if you are going to chase that rabbit.” So Fisher tucked some bread inside his shirt. Now, Fisher fell into a sound sleep after drinking the wine. Then Rabbit resumed his proper shape, and left Fisher lying in a snow-bank. When he woke up, he was almost frozen to death; but he started on. The church had disappeared, and the priest had changed back into a rabbit and run off. As soon as Fisher got hungry in following the mass of rabbit-tracks in the swamp, he decided to eat the bread the priest had given him. He felt inside his shirt, but only pulled out a handful of rabbit-excrement. Then he knew he had been fooled; and ever since then Fisher has been running after rabbits, and killing them wherever he can find them. Here ends my story.

2. THE ADVENTURES OF RABBIT (SECOND VERSION).\(^1\)

(a) Rabbit tries to imitate his Host Kingfisher.

Here comes my story. Rabbit was going along on his way, when he saw smoke coming from the roof of an old camp. When he got close to the door, he rapped, and Kingfisher came out. Said he, “Come in, my chum, and sit down!” Then Rabbit went in and sat down, and Kingfisher went down to the shore by the river. Rabbit watched him. Out on a cedar-branch Kingfisher began leaning over and looking

\(^1\) Narrated by Buck Andrew, Oldtown, Me.
down into the water. Pretty soon he jumped into the water head first. Then he swam to shore and hauled out a big fish. He cleaned and cooked it, and then they ate it. After eating, they spent a while telling stories. When Rabbit started for home, he told Kingfisher to come over and visit him. When he arrived home, he built a camp, and pretty soon his partner Kingfisher came along. Rabbit told him to come in and sit down, and after a while they both got settled down. Then Rabbit got a sharp bone and fastened it to his forehead. His camp was near the river. Then he went out on a tree leaning over the water, and jumped right in, although he did not see anything. He had a hard time. He got drowned. Then Kingfisher got him ashore and stretched him out flat on his back. He jumped over him, and at once Rabbit came to life again. "Sp—, sp—, sp—!" he sputtered, "I got fish that time! Sp—, sp—!" He spat out the water. Then said Kingfisher to him, "You sit still, I'll get the dinner." Then he went out, caught some fish, and they had dinner.

(b) Rabbit escapes from the Lynx after killing his Family.

Rabbit started off again, and had gone a short distance when he saw another camp. He thought he would stop and have something to eat, as he was very hungry. In this camp he saw one old creature and two young ones. They were lynxes. He took a club and hit them all on the head, then ran away. When the other old lynx came home, he saw the rabbit-tracks, and knew by that who had killed his folks. He started off on the trail, and at last came to a church with a priest walking before it preaching. Lynx asked the priest if he had seen a rabbit. "Yes," said the priest, "a lot of them in the swamp." Then the priest invited Lynx inside to have something to eat and drink. Lynx went in, and the priest got him drunk. He gave Lynx some crackers, which he put inside his shirt to save until he might get hungry. Soon Lynx fell asleep. When he awoke, he found himself frozen in ice; and when he examined the crackers, he found that they had changed into rabbit-excrement in his shirt. That priest was Rabbit himself, and so he had fooled him. Then Lynx sped on again through the swamp, following rabbit-tracks. Soon he saw some teamsters hauling wood. Said he, "Where is Rabbit?" and the teamsters sent him chasing off toward salt water (the ocean), and the Lynx chased Rabbit until he came to salt water. There he saw a big ship floating, and those on board fired at him. Then I left and went away. That is why the lynx is always chasing about and hunting rabbits nowadays.
3. THE STORY OF JACK.

(A European Story.)

There were once three brothers who started out in the world to find their fortune. The oldest started first. He took with him some bread; and as he went along the road, he came to an old woman who begged alms of him. He told her that he had nothing but some bread, and that was only enough for one. Then she warned him to beware of the rock and a savage dog which he would find on his road. As he went along, he tripped on a sharp rock and dashed his brains out. The next to the oldest brother started out in the same way, and met the old woman, and exactly the same thing happened. Last of all came Jack, the youngest brother. When he met the old woman, he gave her half of his loaf; and she told him to beware of the rock, and then gave him a club to use against the dog which she said would attack him before long. Soon he came to the sharp rock, but saw it in time to step to one side, and so passed in safety. Then he came to where a big dog sprang upon him, but he struck it with the club and killed it. Having passed these dangers in safety, he came to the palace of the king. Here he asked for work. The king asked him what he could do, and he replied that he could do anything. "Very well," said the king, "if you can do anything, I will hire you;" and they struck a bargain, agreeing that the first one to become angry with the other should submit to having his back skinned. The first task that the king gave Jack was to plant his field. Jack took the plough and ploughed up patches of the ground; so that when it was planted and grew up, the grain appeared in patches here and there. When the king saw it, he was about to scold Jack, who said, "Are you angry?" — "Oh, no!" said the king, "I am not angry."

The next task he gave him was to herd the royal swine. He told Jack to go to the palace of a great giant in the neighborhood, and pasture his swine in the giant's field. For a lunch Jack took a lump of maple-sugar. When he arrived at the giant's palace, the monster came out, and would have killed him if Jack had not leaped into a tree. "Before we fight," said Jack, "let us see who is the greater man. Here I have a stone. I can chew it to bits." Then he chewed up the maple-sugar. Then the giant took a stone and tried to bite it, but could not break it. The giant told Jack to come down, and they would be friendly until they could try some more contests. That night Jack went into the giant's yard and bored a hole through one of the trees, then covered the opening with bark. The next morning he challenged the giant to punch a hole through a tree. The giant struck a big tree and drove his fist into the wood. Then Jack drove his fist through the hole in the tree, so that it came through on the other side, and the giant began to fear him for a very strong man. "Now," said
the giant, "let us take this cane and see who can throw it the highest." He produced a great cane of solid gold, weighing three tons, and hurled it so high that it did not come down till evening. Then Jack took the cane in his hand, and, looking toward the heavens, addressed himself to the Angel Gabriel. "Gabriel," said he, "for a long time I have wanted to make you a present. Now, here is a nice gold cane which I am going to throw you. Keep it when you get it for a present. Are you ready?" — "Hold on!" said the giant, "don't throw it, I don't want to lose it." So the giant gave up, and was afraid of Jack because he thought he was the stronger man. So Jack herded the swine in the giant's field, and at night went home to the king's palace. On the way he cut off the noses and ears of his swine and stuck them in the mire. Then he ran to the palace and told the king that the swine were mired, and to hurry down and help him. So, clad in his best clothes, the king hurried to the mire, and saw the noses and ears sticking from the mud. He grabbed one of the snouts and pulled. When it came up, he fell over backwards and smutted his clothes. "Go back to the palace and get a clean suit from my wife, and hurry!" he told Jack. Then Jack went to the palace and told the queen that the king ordered him to have intercourse with her. She would not believe him, but Jack told her to open her window and ask the king if it were not true. So the queen called down to the king in the mire, and asked him if what Jack said was true. "Yes," he replied, "and be quick about it!" So Jack mounted the queen, and by and by the king returned to his bedroom and saw them. He was about to draw his sword and kill Jack, when Jack said, "Are you angry now?" — "Yes, I am!" said the king. Then he had to let Jack take four inches of skin from his back.

4. STORY OF JACK THE SOLDIER.

(A European Story.)

There was a soldier in the army whose name was Jack. One day he deserted, ran down the road, and left his horse and uniform. The general sent a captain and a corporal after him to capture him; but when they overtook him, Jack said, "Sit down here, and we will talk it over." Then he asked them if they were satisfied with their job, getting only a shilling a week, and he coaxed them to start in the world with him to seek their fortunes. At last they agreed, and all three started out on the road in search of adventure. Soon they struck into a big woods, and at night saw lights shining in the windows of a wonderful palace. When they entered, they found it completely furnished, but without occupants. A fine meal was spread on the table, and three beds were found made up. The only living things they saw were three cats. After eating and smoking, three beautiful maidens appeared
and told the men that they would like them to stay and live with them. That night they all slept together; and the next morning found everything as before, but the beautiful women had turned back into cats. For three nights they staid in this way; and the last night the captain's girl told him that if he would live with her, she would make him a present of a table-cloth which would always supply itself with whatever food he wished. The corporal's girl told him the same, and offered a wallet which should always be full of gold. Jack's girl made him an offer of a cap which would transport him wherever he wished. The men accepted the offer and received their presents. The next day, when the women had turned back into cats, the three men proposed to travel around and see the world; so they all put their heads together, and Jack pulled the cap over them and wished them to be in London. They found themselves in London at once. Soon Jack became infatuated with a beautiful woman whom he wished to marry. She kept refusing him, however, and putting him off till the next day. He offered her a wonderful present. Then he went to the captain and borrowed his table-cloth. He gave her that, but still she put him off. Then he borrowed the corporal’s wallet and gave her that, yet she put him off. At last he begged her to give him a kiss. She laughed and agreed. Then he slipped the cap over their heads and wished to be in the wild woods of America. Immediately they found themselves in the heart of the wild woods, with not a soul near them for miles. She cried very hard, but soon begged Jack to go to sleep, and smoothed his forehead for him. Then, when he fell asleep, she took his cap and wished herself back in London again. When Jack woke up, he found himself alone in the wilderness, and he began wandering, and soon came to a great apple-tree with apples as big as pumpkins. He tasted one, and immediately a growing tree sprouted from his head, and he could not move. Near by, however, was another small apple-tree whose fruit he could just reach. He ate one of these small apples, and immediately the tree came off his head. So he gathered some of the big apples and the little ones, and wandered on. Soon he came out upon a great headland overlooking the ocean, and there he saw a ship sailing by. He signalled to it, and at last the sailors came ashore to get him. He told them he was a great doctor who had been lost in the woods, and wanted to get back to the old country. Then they took him on board and started back to England. Halfway across the ocean the captain got terribly sick, and the sailors called upon Jack to try to help him. He went down and gave the captain a piece of one of the big apples to eat; and at once a growing tree sprang from his head, its branches reaching way up among the masts. When the sailors saw this, they were going to throw him overboard, but he told them to wait until he tried his other medicine. Then he
gave the captain a piece of the small apple, and the tree came off his head. By this they knew Jack was a great doctor. When they landed in England, Jack saw his two friends, the captain and the corporal, sawing wood at an inn to earn their living. He went to a town and built a shop, where he put his great apples up for sale, and many people came to see the wonderful fruit. In the mean time Jack's lover had built a great palace with the money from her wallet; and she heard of the wonderful doctor and his apples, so she went to see them. When she saw Jack, she did not know him because his beard had grown, and thought the apples were very wonderful. She bought one at the price of fifty dollars. When she took it home, Jack left his shop, and waited to see what would happen. Soon the word went around that the wealthiest woman in the kingdom had a tree growing from her head, which none of the doctors could take off. So Jack sent word to the woman that he was a great doctor and would guarantee to cure her. So she sent for him, and he came. First, he told her that she had some great mystery in her life, that she had wronged somebody. He told her that before he could cure her, she would have to confess to him. Then she admitted that she had wronged a man, and had taken his things and left him. Then he told her that she would have to give up these things before he could cure her. So she gave him a little key, and told him to go in the cellar to a certain brick, behind which he would find the table-cloth, the wallet, and the cap. When he got these things, he left the palace, and soon she died for her wrongs. He went back to his friends who were sawing wood, and gave them their things. Now, they all started back to the palace where the three cats were. When they arrived, they found the palace all neglected, and the three cats looked very old. That night they turned back into three old women, who complained bitterly of being neglected. After they had eaten, however, the old women resumed their youth and beauty, and that night the youngest told Jack how they were bewitched by a great bull who lived near by. She told him that if the bull could be killed and his heart cut out, the spell would be removed, but that others had tried in vain. So the next morning Jack went down to his enclosure of stone and looked over. He saw a monster bull coursing around the inside. In the middle of the yard was a well, and a big rock standing at one side. When the bull was at the far end of the yard, Jack jumped the wall and ran for the well, followed by the bull. He had no sooner jumped into the well, than the bull smashed against the rock and fell over dead. Then Jack climbed out and cut out his heart, which he took back with him. That night the three girls ate a piece of the heart, and the spell was removed. After that they all lived together in the palace.

University of Pennsylvania, 