

**STORIES THE
IROQUOIS TELL
THEIR CHILDREN**

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Stories the Iroquois tell their children by Mabel Powers

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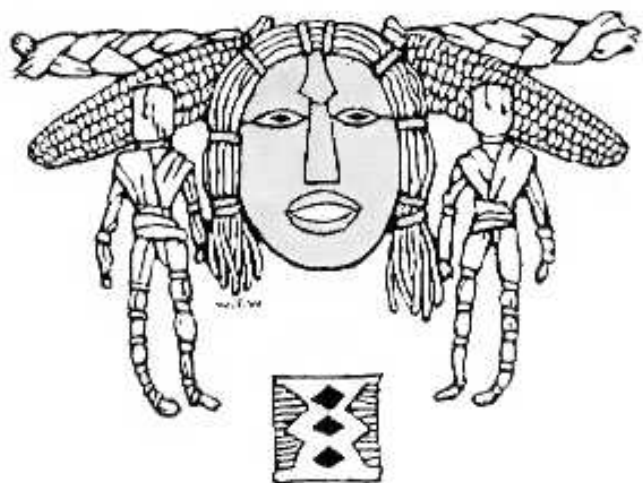
MABEL POWERS

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IROQUOIS TELL
THEIR CHILDREN**

W. FLETCHER WHITE.



❖ STORIES ❖
THE IROQUOIS
TELL THEIR
CHILDREN



MABEL POWERS
(YEH SEN NOH WEHS)

AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY
NEW YORK CINCINNATI CHICAGO

TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO ASK
HOW AND WHY,
ESPECIALLY THOSE RED CHILDREN
WHO SEE WITH WONDER EYES,
AND THOSE PALEFACE CHILDREN
WHO YET BELIEVE IN FAIRIES,
THESE STORIES ARE LOVINGLY DEDICATED



CONTENTS

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	8
FOREWORD BY THE CHIEFS	9

INTRODUCTORY

HOW THE STORIES CAME TO BE	11
WHY I WAS CALLED THE STORY-TELLER	13
THE LITTLE PEOPLE	18
STORY-TELLING TIME	23
HOW THE IROQUOIS GIVE THANKS	27
A FIREMAKER AND A PEACEMAKER	34

IROQUOIS WONDER STORIES

HOW THE WHITE MAN CAME	45
WHY THE EAGLE DEFENDS AMERICANS	49
HOW THE TURKEY BUZZARD GOT HIS SUIT	60
WHY THE PARTRIDGE DRUMS	66
HOW THE INDIANS LEARNED TO HEAL	69
WHY DOGS CHASE FOXES	75
WHY HERMIT THRUSH IS SO SHY	79
HOW GOOD AND EVIL CAME TO BE	85
HOW A BOY WAS CURED OF BOASTING	90
WHY THE CUCKOO IS SO LAZY	95
HOW THE COON OUTWITTED THE FOX	99
WHY THE GOLDFINCHES LOOK LIKE THE SUN	103
WHAT THE ASH AND THE MAPLE LEARNED	107
HOW THE WOMAN OVERCAME THE BEAR	112
WHY THE WOODPECKER BORES FOR ITS FOOD	115
WHY THE ICE ROOF FELL	119
WHY THE CHIPMUNK HAS BLACK STRIPES	122
HOW TWO INDIAN BOYS SETTLED A QUARREL	125
HOW MICE OVERCAME THE WARRIORS	130

CONTENTS

7

	PAGE
WHY CROWS ARE POOR	135
WHY THE INDIAN LOVES HIS DOG	139
GREEDY FAWN AND THE PORRIDGE	145
WHY HOUNDS OUTFRAN OTHER ANIMALS	152
WHY INDIANS NEVER SHOOT PIGRONS	155
HOW OLD MAN WINTER WAS DRIVEN BACK	159
WHY LIGHTNING SOMETIMES STRIKES	168
WHY THE HARE HAS A SPLIT LIP AND SHORT TAIL	176
CORN PLUME AND BEAN MAIDEN	180
HOW THE ROBIN BURNED HIS BREAST	187

IROQUOIS FAIRY STORIES

HOW MORNING STAR LOST HER FISH	195
HOW LITTLE SHOOTER LOST HIS LUCK	201
HOW AN INDIAN BOY WON HIS NAME	205
HOW THE FAIRIES WORKED MAGIC	211

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

If the Red Children had not welcomed the writer to their lodge fires, these stories the Iroquois tell their children could not have been retold. With one or two exceptions, the ideas found in the stories have been had from the lips of the Indians themselves. To ARTHUR C. PARKER — *Ga wa so wa neh* — for his careful review of the stories and assistance in securing authentic Iroquois illustrations; and to the following story-tellers who so kindly welcomed her to their lodges, and told her stories, the writer is most grateful.

EDWARD CORNPLANTER (<i>Sò ion do wah</i> — "Great Night")	Seneca Wolf
WILLIAM PATTERSON (<i>Ga reh kwonk</i> — "Power has come down")	Tuscarora Deer
MOSES SHONGO (<i>Ho now da a yah</i> — "Keeper of the hills")	Seneca Wolf
CLIFFORD SHONGO (<i>Oahn yah dah gok</i> — "Very dark blue sky")	Seneca Wolf
CHARLES DIXON (<i>Hoò squa sa ga dah</i> — "Woodman")	Onondaga Turtle
DANIEL GEORGE (<i>Ja ha a ga dah</i> — "Roadscraper")	Onondaga Eel
MARY PRINTUP (<i>Wah le sa loh</i>)	Mohawk Snipe
DAN WILLIAMS (<i>Ok geh rah u reh ru ho neh</i> — "Running Bear")	Tuscarora Bear
ELI HENRY	Tuscarora Deer
HARRIETT PEMBLETON (<i>Gah do rehñ tah</i> — "Dropping Husks")	Tuscarora Turtle
AMOS KILLBUCK (<i>Har wen do dyok</i> — "He has forsaken early dawn")	Seneca Wolf
ALFRED JIMESON (<i>Har neh a oñ</i> — "Hatchet in his hands")	Seneca Heron
WILLIAM HOAG (<i>O no nah</i> — "Very cold")	Seneca Wolf
ELLEN PIERCE SHONGO (<i>Vea wen nah aih</i> — "The high word")	Seneca Wolf
BAPTIST THOMAS (<i>Sa ka wac</i> — "Long feather")	Onondaga Turtle
ALBERT CUSICK (<i>Shò go no qua da</i> — "Made them mad")	Onondaga Eel
THEODORE JIMESON (<i>Jah a yah</i>)	Seneca Snipe
DAVID WARRIOR (<i>Dwen a gwak</i>)	Cayuga White Heron
WILLETT JIMESON (<i>So i us ah</i> — "Owner of fine cornstalks")	Seneca Wolf
NANCY GREYSQUIRREL (<i>Gah gwah tah</i> — "One who lifts")	Seneca Bear
EMILY TALLCHIEF (<i>Gi das was</i> — "Wind blowing through corn")	Seneca Turtle
LOUISE PIERCE LOGAN (<i>Ga yah was</i> — "The quivering heaven")	Seneca Wolf
THOMAS JONES (<i>Gah ne yeh</i> — "The dropping snow")	Seneca Wolf

FOREWORD

Once our fathers own these lands of New York State. Once the Iroquois were great people. Their council fires burn from Hudson on east to Lake Erie on west, from rising to setting sun. Then White man come. He ask for small seat size buffalo skin. He take larger and larger one, till Indian have but small place to sit.

Now we have little left but stories of our fathers. They, too, will soon be lost and forgotten, but a voice has come to speak for us. *Veh sen noh wehs*—the one who tells the stories—will carry these stories of our fathers to Paleface. She will help White man to understand Indian, Indian to be understood. She will have all men brothers.

Indian's heart is glad that *Veh sen noh wehs*, our white friend, has come to us. She have good eyes. She see right. She like things Indian. She try to preserve them. Our old men and women tell her the stories told them, many, many moons ago, when little children.

Veh sen noh wehs write down these stories so our children and our children's children may read and know them; and so Paleface Children may learn them also. Indian tell these stories to his children to make them good and brave and kind and unselfish. May they teach Paleface Children how they should do.