

Little Cousin Jasper by James Whitcomb Riley

**Little Cousin Jasper, he
Don't live in this town, like me, —
He lives 'way to Rensselaer,
An' ist comes to visit here.**

**He says 'at our court-house square
Ain't nigh big as theirs is there! —
He says their town's big as four
Er five towns like this, an' more!**

**He says ef his folks moved here
He'd cry to leave Rensselaer —
'Cause they's prairies there, an' lakes,
An' wile-ducks an' rattlesnakes!**

**Yes, 'n' little Jasper's Pa
Shoots most things you ever saw! —
Wunst he shot a deer, one day,
'At swummed off an' got away.**

**Little Cousin Jasper went
An' camped out wunst in a tent
Wiv his Pa, an' helt his gun
While he kilt a turrapun.**

**An' when his Ma heerd o' that,
An' more things his Pa's bin at,
She says, " Yes, 'n' he'll git shot
'Fore he's man-grown, like as not! "**

**An' they's mussrats there, an' minks,
An' di-dippers, an' chee-winks, —
Yes, 'n' cal'mus-root you chew
All up an' 't 'on't pizen you!**

**An', in town, 's a flag-pole there —
Highest one 'at's anywhere
In this world! — wite in the street
Where the big mass-meetin's meet.**

**Yes, 'n' Jasper he says they
Got a brass band there, an' play
On it, an' march up an' down
An' all over round the town!**

**Wisht our town ain't like it is! —
Wisht it's ist as big as his!
Wisht 'at his folks they'd move here ,
An' we'd move to Rensselaer!**