

WALKS AND TALKS

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Walks and talks by William Hawley Smith

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WILLIAM HAWLEY SMITH

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AND TALKS**

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BY

WILLIAM HAWLEY SMITH

AUTHOR OF

"THE EVOLUTION OF DODD" .

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WILLIAM HAWLEY SMITH
1893

- "I tramp a perpetual journey, and I ask you to come walk with me.*
- "And each man and woman of you I lead upon a knoll,*
- "My right hand pointing to landscapes of continents and the public road.*
- "Not I, not any one else, can travel that road for you.*
- "You must travel it yourself!*
- "So, shoulder your bundle, dear friend, and I will mine, and let us hasten forth.*
- "If you tire, give me both burdens, and rest your hand on my arm.*
- "And in due time you shall repay the same service to me.*
- "For, after we start, we shall never lie by again! So,*
- "Come on! whoever you are, and let us travel together!*
- "Traveling with me, you shall find what never tires.*
- "The earth never tires!*
- "The earth is rude, silent, incomprehensible at first;*
- "Nature is rude and incomprehensible at first;*
- "But be not discouraged. Keep on. There are divine things there, well enveloped.*
- "There are divine things there more beautiful than words can tell!*
- "Come on! We must not stop here!*
- "However sweet these laid-up stores, however convenient this dwelling, we cannot remain here.*
- "However sheltered this port and however calm these waters, we must not anchor here.*
- "However welcome the hospitality that surrounds us, we are permitted to receive it but a little while.*
- "Come on! Yet take warning!*

- "He traveling with me needs the best blood, throws, endurance.*
"None may come to the trial till he or she bring courage and health.
"Come not here if you have already spent the best of yourself.
"Only those may come who come in sweet and determined bodies.
"Come on! after the Great Companions, and to belong with them!
"They, too, are on the road — they are the swift and majestic men — they are the greatest and grandest women!
"Come on! to that which is endless as it was beginningless.
"To undergo much, tramp of days, rest of nights;
"To see nothing, anywhere, but that you may reach it and pass it;
"To conceive of no time, however distant, but that you may reach it and pass it;
"To look up or down no road but it stretches and waits for you — however long, it stretches and waits for you!
"Whoever you are, come forth! or man or woman, come forth!
"You must not stay sleeping and dallying there in the house, though you built it, or though it was built for you.
"Come on! the road is before us!
"It is safe — I have tried it — my own feet have tried it well.
"Come on!
"Comrade, I give you my hand!
"I give you my love, more precious than money;
"I give you myself, before all preaching or law;
"Will you give me yourself? Will you come and travel with me;
"Shall we stick by each other just as long as we live?"

INDEX.

A HUNTER'S PHILOSOPHY	11
AMONG THE AZTECS.....	48
AN OPEN BOOK	30
BORN "SHORT".....	113
"DOT".....	93
"EXAMS.".....	79
FIVE OUT OF THIRTY.....	157
GEOGRAPHY AND MUSIC.....	271
HALF-TONES BY THE MILLION	177
HONORIFICABILITUDINITY.....	186
HOUSE CLEANING AND HISTORY.....	202
HOW HE KNEW IT.....	122
IN AN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL	162
INCORRIGIBLES	106
IN INSTITUTE ASSEMBLED.....	143
JONES'S DREAM	153

LIGHT, AIR, HEAT AND HEALTH.....	134
MEXICAN CLASS-ROOM WORK.....	62
PHOTOGRAPHS.....	166
RATS.....	86
"SPECIALTY BUSINESS".....	74
SQUEAKS AND GREASE.....	194
THANKSGIVING.....	179
THE BAD BOY'S MOTHER.....	102
"THE ONLY".....	71
THE OUTSET.....	9
THE SCHOOLS OF MEXICO.....	55
THROUGH MEMORY'S WAYS.....	20
TO YOU.....	30
TWO AFTER-DINNER SPEECHES.....	218
WHITTILING.....	128

WALKS AND TALKS.

THE OUTSET.

In that far distant era when our "entering class" stood up around Mary Montague's knees and learned our letters in the orthodox fashion of taking the alphabet "in course," as everybody was expected to take everything in those days, I remember that that motherly old maid of a Yankee schoolmarm gave us some "supplementary work," as it would be called now, in the shape of little verses that we learned and recited in concert, our arms entwined around each other, and the whole little charmed circle swaying and weaving, back and forth, in even time, as we said the lines over in a sing-song way. And among these verses, thus learned and recited, there was one that began :

"When'er I take my *walks abroad*,
How many ——s I see."

I have forgotten just what the word *w* is that fitted in where I have left a blank ; nor do I know why my memory should have failed to hold the particular monosyllable that evidently belongs in there, while clinging fast to all the rest of the lines ; but after nearly fifty years' acquaintance with this mental furniture of mine, I have quit trying to account for all its peculiarities—omissions, commissions and what not.