

**PLAIN TALES FROM
THE HILLS.
[LONDON-1893]**

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Plain Tales From the Hills. [London-1893] by Rudyard Kipling

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RUDYARD KIPLING

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THE HILLS.
[LONDON-1893]**

PLAIN TALES

FROM

THE HILLS

BY

RUDYARD KIPLING

AUTHOR OF 'DEPARTMENTAL DIFTIES AND OTHER VERSES'

London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

AND NEW YORK

1893

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TO

THE WITTIEST WOMAN IN INDIA

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK

PREFACE

EIGHT-AND-TWENTY of these tales appeared originally in the *Civil and Military Gazette*. I am indebted to the kindness of the Proprietors of that paper for permission to reprint them. The remaining tales are, more or less, new.

RUDYARD KIPLING.

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LISPETH

Look, you have cast out Love! What Gods are these
You bid me please?
The Three in One, the One in Three! Not so!
To my own Gods I go.
It may be they shall give me greater ease
Than your cold Christ and tangled Trinities.

The Convert.

SHE was the daughter of Sonoo, a Hill-man of the Himalayas, and Jadéh his wife. One year their maize failed, and two bears spent the night in their only opium poppy-field just above the Sutlej Valley on the Kotgarh side; so, next season, they turned Christian, and brought their baby to the Mission to be baptized. The Kotgarh Chaplain christened her Elizabeth, and 'Lispeth' is the Hill or *pahari* pronunciation.

Later, cholera came into the Kotgarh Valley and carried off Sonoo and Jadéh, and Lispeth became half servant, half companion, to the wife of the then Chaplain of Kotgarh. This was after the reign of the Moravian missionaries in that place, but before Kotgarh had quite forgotten her title of 'Mistress of the Northern Hills.'

Whether Christianity improved Lispeth, or whether the gods of her own people would have done as much for her under any circumstances, I do not know; but