

**BITS OF TALK, IN
VERSE AND PROSE,
FOR YOUNG FOLKS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649274789

Bits of talk, in verse and prose, for young folks by H. H.

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H. H.

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ST. CHRISTOPHER. — PAGE 7.

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IN VERSE AND PROSE,
FOR YOUNG FOLKS.

By H. H.,

● AUTHOR OF "BITS OF TALK ABOUT HOME MATTERS,"
"BITS OF TRAVEL," "VERSES."



" — in all the lands
No such morning-glory."

BOSTON:
ROBERTS BROTHERS.

1876.

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BITS OF TALK.

THE PARABLE OF ST. CHRISTOPHER.

TO a king's court a giant came, —
“ O king, both far and near
I seek,” he said, “ the greatest king,
And thou art he, I hear.

“ If it please thee, I will abide;
To thee my knee shall bend;
Only unto the greatest kings
Can giants condescend.”

Right glad the king the giant took
Into his service then,
For since Goliath's mighty days
No man so big was seen.

Well pleased the giant, too, to serve
The greatest king on earth;
He served him well, in peace, in war,
In sorrow, and in mirth,

Till came a wandering minstrel by,
One day, who played and sang
Wild songs, through which the devil's name
Profanely, loudly rang.

Astonished then the giant saw
The king look sore afraid;
At mention of the devil's name,
The cross's sign he made.

“How now, my master! Why dost thou
Make on thy breast this sign?”
He said. “It is a spell,” replied
The king — “a spell divine,

“Which shall the devil circumvent,
And keep me safe and whole
From all the wicked arts he tries
To slay my precious soul.”

“O, ho, my master! then he is
More powerful than thou!
They lied who called thee greatest king;
I leave thy service now,

“ And seek the devil; him will I
My master call henceforth,”
The giant cried, and strode away
Contemptuous and wroth.

He found the devil soon. I ween
The devil waited near,
Well pleased to have this mighty man
Within his ranks appear.

They journeyed on full many a day,
And now the giant deemed
At last he had a master found,
Who was the king he seemed.

But lo! one day they came apace
To where four roadways met,
And at the meeting of the roads
A cross of stone was set.

The devil trembled and fell back,
And said, “ We go around.”
“ Now tell me,” fierce the giant cried,
“ Why fearest thou this ground ?”