

**THE HUMMING TOP,
OR DEBIT AND CREDIT
IN THE NEXT WORLD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649250844

The Humming Top, Or Debit and Credit in the Next World by Theobald Gross

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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Translated by

BLANCHE WILLIS HOWARD

AUTHOR OF "ONE SUMMER," "GUENN," ETC.

NEW YORK
FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY
MDCCCXC

49565.15.13

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[Authorized Translation from the German of Theobald Gross.]



BY
BLANCHE
WILLIS
HOWARD

OUNT GEIERFLUG, the mightiest minister of the realm, had breathed his last. His final moments on earth had left him looking somewhat pale and worn, but had in no respect diminished his pride, or the aristocratic elegance of his bearing.

DEBIT AND CREDIT

Attired in a gold-embroidered coat, such as men of his distinction are apt to wear when lying in funereal state, he started off on the direct road to Heaven.

Marching along at a brisk pace, he presently overtook and passed a little group consisting of three most wretched beings; a white-haired, palsied old pauper woman, a youth, from whose neck still dangled the halter which he had brought with him from the closing scene of his life drama, and a poor little hump-backed consumptive boy, five or six years old, who, from time to time glanced lovingly at a toy clasped close in his wasted hand.

Count Geierflug arrived at the gates of Heaven, and politely addressed Saint Peter:

“Pardon me,” he began, “I would merely beg to inquire—”

But the former apostle and present keeper of the celestial gates interrupted him sternly: