

The History of Good Lady Kindheart, of Hospitable-Hall, near The Village of Allgood: and the Wicked Tinker. To which is added The Story of the Giants, and the Little Dwarf Mignon. London: R. Marshall, [n.d.]. 12mo, 21 woodcuts, 46 pages.

Good Lady Kindheart is a paragon demonstrating the redemptive and protective power of goodness. The narrative contains references to Marshall's business in the story ("...she would give [the children] one of those little Books which are Sold by Mr. *Marshall*. No 4. in *Aldermary Church Yard, Bow Lane, London*.... and I have known her when a Child said it [the catechism] all throughout without missing a word, give it a whole Library of Mr. *Marshall*'s gilt Books... for the rest I refer you to the Catalogue at the End of the Book."). Good Lady Kindheart's tale is followed by "The Story of the cruel Giant Barbarico, the good Giant Benefico, and the little pretty Dwarf Mignon." It tells of the separation of two lovers by the bad giant and their eventual reunion brought about by the kindhearted Mignon and gentle giant Benefico. As indicated in the first story, a two-page advertisement is included at the end of the volume.

This book was issued by the publishing house of Richard Marshall (d. 1779), father of John Marshall (d. 1823), a prolific producer of children's books whose catalogues of the 1780s included approximately 100 titles for children. The younger Marshall is considered to be the first significant rival to the Newberys, whose patriarch John was the first to develop a serious specialty in juvenile literature. Both of the Marshalls' books, like those of Newbery, often included advertisements for their business, such as the one in this book.

This children's book is part of the Bodleian Library's Douce Collection, named for Francis Douce (1757–1834), a British antiquary and the Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum from 1807 to 1811. His bequest of more than 19,000 volumes contained printed books from various periods, including nearly 500 incunables, as well as roughly 425 manuscripts. Eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century children's books numbered among Douce's wide range of collecting specialties. This copy of *Good Lady Kindheart* is in a contemporary binding of boards covered with Dutch floral paper. Its title page

bears the incipit “Lydia Heaton | Dec 29 1790”, as well as the Douce stamp “EX
DONO FR. DOUCE | BIBL. BODL.”

Octavo code: **heagoo**