Recently, while browsing through an old bookstore, having finished the Erotica I ran into the Esoterica. There, on a toadstool table topped with a Victorian mirror, I found a small pamphlet or notebook, badly worm-torn and dog-eared, obviously a poorly-bound student's scratch pad. The cover caught my eye; for just barely discernible was the faded inscription

D. M. Epehpto
His Commonplace Book

The price, at five dollars, seemed excessive, but on impulse I bought it.

Most of the contents were completely undecipherable, the ink having almost disappeared. I caught a few words (?) such as "fumious", "brillig", and something that looked like "bandersnatch".

Fortunately, the central portion, probably since it had been protected from time's ravages, was clearer. I discovered the following very strange entry:

OW at the PX and JO on KP
There are no SHADS in far TIBET
An ADDER has no BEEFS
The fighting ANTS will have a BOUT
Don't give HER any IFS
In AYR the air has no BZS
A KOR of gin gets LPS
And also ADD a buzzing BEE
LOR call out the MPS
The Russian CZAR each eye he DABS
Blows a HORN IPSO
Goes to the SHOR but gives no TIPS
His FAN is his GBO
From a's to ZADS each will ABET
A STAR to shine on TUBS
Forget all IDS while on a JET
And do not CHAR the DIBS
Accept no NOS or else you'll OPT
To ADMIX coat and BENJY
The INS will never give a JOT
For PS on the QT
Spray no BZS upon thy CAT
No ROHU for a SPIV
Though out of p's and Q's thou 'RT
Smith NEE Jonés is OFF
The dogs all GNAR when e'er he HOBS
VDS to every WET
Bad RNA can cause a SOB
No SHADS in far TIBET

On a separate page was the list -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNEER / TOFFS</th>
<th>DUD / EVE</th>
<th>NUN / OVO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHEER / TIFFS</td>
<td>END / FOE</td>
<td>DOM / EPN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNOD / TOPE</td>
<td>ONS / POT</td>
<td>RHO / SIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHMS / PINT</td>
<td>TOR / UPS</td>
<td>NOD / OPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDS / BEET</td>
<td>ZAX / ABY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And the next page had the most cryptic inscription of all -

SCHR HR Z ITKHT R BZDRZQ BHOGDQ ZKRN
BZK KDC Z BZDRZQ RT AR SHSTSHNM

Although the whole thing makes little sense to me, I have sent it to Word Ways since there may be some logological interest in it.

I did check in Webster's Third Unabridged Dictionary and determined that all letter combinations in the "poem", no matter how strange in appearance, are legitimate words -- none is purely an abbreviation.