

**THE AMATEUR
CRACKSMAN.
[1899]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649045389

The Amateur Cracksman. [1899] by E. W. Hornung

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E. W. HORNING

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CRACKSMAN.
[1899]**

The
Amateur Cracksman

By E. W. ^{meet} ~~William~~ _{Horning}

Charles Scribner's Sons
New York 1899

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PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING COMPANY
NEW YORK

TO
Mr. C. D. Doyle
A. C. D. Doyle ?

THIS FORM OF FLATTERY

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I. B. Evans
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The Amateur Cracksman

THE IDES OF MARCH

I

IT was about half-past twelve when I returned to the Albany as a last desperate resort. The scene of my disaster was much as I had left it. The baccarat-counters still strewed the table, with the empty glasses and the loaded ash-trays. A window had been opened to let the smoke out, and was letting in the fog instead. Raffles himself had merely discarded his dining jacket for one of his innumerable blazers. Yet he arched his eyebrows as though I had dragged him from his bed.

"Forgotten something?" said he, when he saw me on his mat.

"No," said I, pushing past him without