

**THE NOVELS, STORIES  
AND SKETCHES OF  
F. HOPKINSON  
SMITH: AT CLOSE RANGE**

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The Novels, Stories and Sketches of F. Hopkinson Smith: At Close Range by F. Hopkinson Smith

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**F. HOPKINSON SMITH**

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HIS EYES CAUGHT THE OUTLINE OF A GIRL.

THE NOVELS, STORIES  
AND SKETCHES OF  
F. HOPKINSON SMITH

AT CLOSE RANGE ❦

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S  
SONS ❦ NEW YORK ❦ 1905

*1905*



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## TO MY READERS

ON my writing-table lies a magnifying glass the size of an old watch crystal, which helps me to understand the mechanism of many interesting things. With it I decipher at close range such finger-work as the cutting of intaglios, the brush-marks on miniatures, or perhaps the intricate fusings of metals in the sword-guard of a Samurai.

At the same close range I try to search the secret places of the many minds and hearts which in my nomadic life cross my path. In these magnifyings and probings the unexpected is oftentimes revealed: tenderness hiding behind suspected cruelty; refinement under assumed coarseness; the joy of giving forcing its way through thick crusts of pretended avarice.

The results confirm my theory, that at the bottom of every heart-crucible choked with life's cinders there can almost always be found a drop of gold.

F. H. S.

150 E. 34th Street, New York.

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AT CLOSE RANGE