

**SWORD AND
CROSS:
AND OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649716852

Sword and Cross: And Other Poems by Charles Eugene Banks

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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CHARLES EUGENE BANKS

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Sword and Cross

and Other Poems

BY

CHARLES EUGENE BANKS,

CO-AUTHOR OF

"IN HAMPTON ROADS."



CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:

RAND, McNALLY & COMPANY,
PUBLISHERS.

1900

AL 922.6.30

JUN 20 1907
Col. T. W. Higginson

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TO

MY WIFE

"The wee cot and the cricket's chirr,
Love, and the glad, sweet face of her."
—*James Whitcomb Riley.*

PREFACE

COLUMBIA

*While mortal monarchs one and all,
Are blindly groping to their fall,
America, behold thy queen
Survey her broad domain serene,
Move all unguarded where she will
A subtle essence none may kill.
Though balked ambition, mounting high,
Slay openly, or secretly
Drop poison to the loving cup
Of trusting rival come to sup;
Though every crown of every clime
Come tumbling down (O happy time!)
Though death claim all the heirs that purr
About the courts—what is't to her?
She smiles at steel and drug intense,
Immortal—nature's recompense
For banished throne and lordly train—
A goddess born of soul and brain,
A child of meditative thought,
A floating vision fancy-caught,
A rapture blown into a reed,
Columbia, a queen indeed!*

