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GLIMPSES THROUGH THE
CANNON-SMOKE

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GLIMPSES' THROUGH

THE

CANNON-SMOKE

A SERIES OF SKETCHES

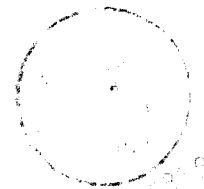


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1880



TO THE READER.

—•—

I HAVE certain compunctions of conscience as to the title under which this little volume goes out to take its chance. It may be thought to have rather a lurid aspect of sensationalism: but there is nevertheless some fitness in it. I have spent the last decade almost wholly in campaigning, and have witnessed the cannon-smoke almost as often as I have seen the peaceful smoke from the domestic grate. My poor pen has been mostly engaged in efforts to describe military operations—marches, battles, concentrations, and retreats. But intervals have occurred which I have humbly tried to utilise by work that is free at least from the fresh smell of burning powder; and it is some

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of that work which I have gathered up out of odd corners and brought together in this little volume. I hope that work would have been better if it had not been in its nature so desultory; but there is this to be said for it, that there is a considerable variety in the subjects, and that some of the papers illustrate unfamiliar themes. Almost all, it should be said, are reprints; and I have to acknowledge my obligations to many people, for permission to reprint them.

LONDON, *June 1st*, 1880.

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