



A Day at Laguerres and Other Days Being Nine Sketches

By F. Hopkinson Smith

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A review from The Critic, Volumes 20-21: THE CHARACTERIZATION of foreign types and foreign lands on piquant and telling lines requires no small talent: it is indeed of those talents that have wrought minute perfections in ivory, painted a drama on a fan, or displayed Japanese delicacy on a screen or a kakemono. A very cunning eye, a very deft pencil, a taste for salient detail, and a command of vivid colors go to make up such a power of sketching in words, a power not to be despised or ignored rather to be envied and delighted in. How many people have vainly attempted to describe Constantinople or Venice, Cordova or Mexico, floundering around among vague epithets and hopeless adjectives without ever reproducing the phantom of a minaret, the glimmer of a palace-haunted canal, the glow of Spanish light, the vivid beauty of Chapultepec! Volumes have been written on these cities and places whose voluminousness in vain aspires to reproduce Spain or Italy, Orient or Occident, as a single strophe of Victor Hugo's Orientales reproduces the subtle scenery...

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