

A SHOOTER AT THE SUN

BY

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(Translated by T. SATCHELL)

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PREFACE.

"A Shooter at the Sun" (*Taiyo wo iru mono*) is a continuation of "Across the Death-line" (*Shi-sen wo koete*), the work which brought Mr. Kagawa's name into prominence as a novelist, and which achieved such a phenomenal success in Japan, half a million copies of the book being sold. For those who have not read "Across the Death-line" it may be explained that the hero, Eiichi Niimi, the son by a second wife of a wealthy man in Shikoku, after experiencing much mental trouble and quarrelling with his father owing to the latter's dissipated way of life, becomes a Christian and goes to live in the slums of Shinkawa at Kobe, for the purpose of helping the poor and carrying on Christian propaganda. His life in the slums brings him often into danger and always into great discomfort, but his earnestness and faith enable him to confront all the miseries of the life with courage and endurance. Three love stories run through the book, the first connected with a playmate of his childhood, Tsuruko, who proves faithless, and the others with a geisha named Kohide and a workgirl in the slums named Kieko Higuchi.

A new edition of "Across the Death-line" has now been published in America by the George H. Doran Company of New York, and in England by Messrs. Chatto and Windus, under the title of "Before the Dawn."

"A Shooter at the Sun" is a continuation of Eiichi's experiences in the slums at Shinkawa. The translation has been slightly condensed, a few passages in the original that do not bear on the course of the story being omitted.

Acknowledgement must be made of the kind assistance of Mr. K. Kubota in explaining many passages in the original. The translator, however, accepts sole responsibility for all mistakes.