OSCAR WILDE, THE STORY OF AN UNHAPPY FRIENDSHIP

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Oscar Wilde, the story of an unhappy friendship by Robert H. Sherard

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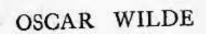
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ROBERT H. SHERARD

OSCAR WILDE, THE STORY OF AN UNHAPPY FRIENDSHIP





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OSCAR WILDE

The Story of An Unhappy Friendship

BY

ROBERT H. SHERARD

Author of
"Emile Zola: A Biography,"
"Alphonse Dauder: A Biography," etc., etc.

. . . Nessun maggior dolore Che ricordarsi del tempo felice Nella miseria

"I have saved the bird in my bosom."

—Last Words of Sir Hugh Percy.

POPULAR EDITION

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To

R. R.

In Remembrance
of His Noble Conduct
Towards The Unhappy Gentleman
Who is The Subject of This Memoir, Whom
In Affliction He Comforted, In Prison He Visited,
and In Poverty He Succoured, Thus Showing
an Elevation of Heart and a Loyalty
of Character
This Book is Dedicated

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PREFATORY NOTE

TO ORIGINAL EDITION PRIVATELY PRINTED

The discreet method of publication which has been adopted for this book will, it is hoped, be accepted as deference to its opinion by that section of the public who, because in a man of genius the allied madness once got the upper hand, would consign him and the works which that genius created to the eternal night of eternal oblivion. A more weighty consideration still, which dictated this course, was to afford no opportunity, by causing a public revival of attention to his name, for those unjust reprisals upon his kinsfolk to which humanity, in this, as in every similar case, needs but the pretext of an incitement. My first chapter explains why the book was written. In this note I wish to point out that my plea for the fairer consideration of my friend -one of the brightest geniuses of the last century - is delivered a huis-clos, so that none but those invited need listen to it. If any eavesdropper cry "Scandal," he himself will be the cause of it.

ROBERT HARBOROUGH SHERARD.

Waltote, Upper Norwood, S.E., August 7th, 1902.