

**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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ROBERT H. SHERARD

**OSCAR WILDE, THE
STORY OF AN
UNHAPPY FRIENDSHIP**

OSCAR WILDE

EPIGRAM BOOKS
BY MR MONKSHOOD.

WOMAN AND THE WISE.

WOMAN AND THE WITS.

THE CYNIC'S POSY.

WIT AND WISDOM OF EDGAR SALTUS.

THE WORLDLING'S WIT.



OSCAR WILDE

The Story of An Unhappy Friendship

BY

ROBERT H. SHERARD

Author of

"Emile Zola: A Biography,"

"Alphonse Daudet: 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

LONDON
GREENING & CO., LTD.

1909

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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

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

AUTOGRAPHED PORTRAIT OF OSCAR WILDE, 1892, <i>Frontispiece</i>	
PORTRAIT OF OSCAR WILDE WHEN AT OXFORD, ABOUT 1878	<i>To face page</i> 48
PORTRAIT OF OSCAR WILDE, FROM A DRAWING, ABOUT 1882	<i>To face page</i> 92
PORTRAIT OF OSCAR WILDE WHEN IN AMERICA, ABOUT 1883	<i>To face page</i> 140
PORTRAIT OF OSCAR WILDE IN ÆSTHETIC DRESS, ABOUT 1884	<i>To face page</i> 184
PORTRAIT OF OSCAR WILDE, 1892	<i>To face page</i> 232

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 à 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.

*Walcote, Upper Norwood, S.E.,
August 7th, 1902.*