

**IN MEMORIAM,
OSCAR WILDE**

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In Memoriam, Oscar Wilde by Franz Blei & Ernest La Jeunesse & Andr Gide

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FRANZ BLEI & ERNEST LA JEUNESSE & ANDR GIDE

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OSCAR WILDE**

IN MEMORIAM: O. W.

IN MEMORIAM
OSCAR WILDE

BY

ERNEST LA JEUNESSE
ANDRÉ GIDE AND FRANZ BLEI

TRANSLATION AND INTRODUCTION

BY


PERCIVAL POLLARD

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INTRODUCTION
BY
PERCIVAL POLLARD





INTRODUCTION

STROLLING in the rare sunshine that visited Berlin this May of 1905, a whim took me into a quaint little bookshop that faces the workshop of venerable Joseph Joachim. There, among that litter of old and new, in all tongues, I found crystallised what much other observation had already hinted. Namely, that upon the continental literature concerning itself primarily with formal



INTRODUCTION

art no exotic influence was more noticeable, at that moment, than that of the late Oscar Wilde. Exotic influence upon the German theatre was discernible enough; here were farces from the French: there dismal stuff from Scandinavia, Strindberg and Bjoernson to the fore: even Bernard Shaw and J. M. Barrie were represented in translation. But, to name the piece that was being played oftenest, on both sides of the Rhine, we had to hark back to a play by Wilde, "Salome." When you went beyond the theatre, eying the windows of the booksellers, you saw Wilde's name everywhere,—his "De Profundis" was the most famous book of the season in Berlin, as in France and England; or, at any rate, the booksellers seemed