

**IN VINCULIS.
MDCCLXXXIX**

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In Vinculis. MDCCCLXXXIX by Wilfrid Scawen Blunt

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WILFRID SCAWEN BLUNT

**IN VINCULIS.
MDCCLXXXIX**

IN VINCULIS.

BY

WILFRID SCAWEN BLUNT,

AUTHOR OF "THE WIND AND THE WINDLIND,"

"THE LOVE SONNETS OF PROTEUS,"

ETC., ETC.



LONDON

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MDCCLXXXIX.

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

DEDICATION.

TO THE

PRIESTS AND PEASANTRY OF IRELAND,

WHO FOR

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

HAVE PRESERVED THE TRADITION OF A

RIGHTEOUS WAR

FOR

FAITH AND FREEDOM.

260767

PREFACE.

In dedicating these poems to the priests and peasantry of Ireland, their author desires to acknowledge his deep gratitude towards them, not for their sympathy only, and this was great, but for much else which, though difficult to express, will be divined in their perusal.

The earliest of the pieces, those headed "In Vinculis," were with a few exceptions actually written (on the fly-leaves of the Author's prayer-book) in Galway and Kilmainham gaols. The rest were either designed in prison or composed in connection with the events of the time. They record an episode in the writer's life to which, in spite of many austerities and some real suffering, he cannot look back otherwise than with affection. Imprisonment is a reality of discipline most useful

to the modern soul, lapped as it is in physical sloth and self-indulgence. Like a sickness or a spiritual retreat it purifies and ennobles; and the soul emerges from it stronger and more self-contained. Alas, that these influences should so soon lose their power!—And yet, fall as we may from the higher level, they do not wholly perish, but remain for us a wholesome recollection and a standard of all that we can imagine best for this life and another.

W. S. B.

Crabbet Park, Sussex,
Oct. 23, 1888.

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