PLAYS

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Plays by Jacinto Benavente & John Garrett Underhill

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JACINTO BENAVENTE & JOHN GARRETT UNDERHILL

PLAYS



PLAYS BY

JACINTO BENAVENTE



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BY

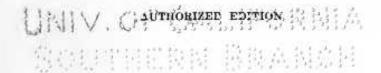
JACINTO BENAVENTE

TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

JOHN GARRETT UNDERHILL

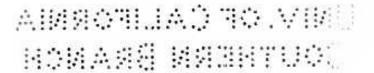
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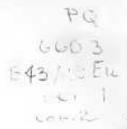
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summer season

INTRODUCTION

Jacinto Benavente was born at Madrid, August 12, 1866, He was the son of Mariano Benavente, a physician and distinguished specialist in the diseases of children, who had come up to the capital from Murcia, that most African and somnolent of European cities, some years before. If Adam should return to this earth, says the Spaniard, Murcia is the spot he would recognize first, for of all places it has changed the least. There is in many of the most fascinating pages of Benavente the sense of this semitropical, parched, unchanging landscape, where, as he himself has put it, civilization has not yet murdered sleep. Along the upper reaches of the River Segura lies many a town, baked into the arid hillsides through centuries of torrid noons, from which never a name has come forth into the currents of European life.

As a young man he entered the University of Madrid and there studied law, without, however, completing the course. But no routine study fixed his attention. In particular, he was avid of intercourse with persons of all sorts and conditions, especially with those whose lives were uncouth and primitive in their surroundings, and who were simple and childlike in nature, where the heart was never very far beneath the surface and the emotions ingenuous and strong. For a while he travelled with a circus; it is even said that he performed in the ring. Clowns fascinated him. All classes of itinerant folk have been his friends ever since. Subsequently he became an actor, appearing in the company of