

**THE TEMPTER: A
TRAGEDY IN VERSE
IN FOUR ACTS**

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The Tempter: a Tragedy in Verse in Four Acts by Henry Arthur Jones

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HENRY ARTHUR JONES

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IN FOUR ACTS**

THE TEMPTER

The  Co.

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A TRAGEDY IN VERSE IN FOUR ACTS

BY
HENRY ARTHUR JONES

PRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE
HAYMARKET THEATRE, LONDON

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF

MR. H. BEERBOHM TREE

SEPTEMBER 20, 1893

New York

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LETTICE, waiting-maid to Lady Isobel	MISS IRENE VANBRUGH.
SARAH POUND	MRS. E. H. BROOKE.

*Pilgrims, Sailors, Beggars, Gentlemen, Monks, Serving-
men, Sutlers, Grooms, Waiting-women,
Soldiers, Attendants, etc.*

PROLOGUE.

Leave for awhile the fret of modern life,
Its cheap pert aims, delirious unrest ;
Leave social maladies and the lust-pest
To Nature's surgery. Trust her wise knife,
Shun city fungi with strange fevers rife ;
Nor join crude modern persons in vain quest
For deathless beauty's self and holy zest
Of rapturous martyrdom in some base strife
Of feeble peddling folk, caked in dull filth.
Shut out the reek of this stockjobbing age,
Its wan-faced railway herds, its wealth, its ilth,
The muddy ferment of its greed, and rage
Of blind, deaf, mad, industrial war. Close ears.
Close eyes. Waken in long past lovely years.

Waken in Chaucer's England, 'mid the ring
Of bells, 'mid rainbow throngs, and rich gay sights.
Lo! here a band of pilgrims, dames and knights,
Beset with evil's strong encompassing
In days when men had souls to save. What Thing
Is this that dogs these wayfarers, affrights,
Mocks, lures and frustrates, startles and delights,
And wins them to a wild abandoning
Of heaven, of all? Such Power dogs us to-day :
The past I show is but our present life,
And we are pilgrims, shadowed on our way,
Waging the old inexplicable strife
With darkness, taint of blood, necessity,
Fate, chance, or—what? Raise curtain. Let us see.