

**POEMS.  
[LONDON-1912]**

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Poems. [London-1912] by W. B. Yeats

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**W. B. YEATS**

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W. J. G. S.

# POEMS

BY

W. B. YEATS

LONDON

T. FISHER UNWIN

ADELPHI TERRACE

1912



"The Wanderings of Oisín" was published with the lyrics now collected under the title "Crossways" in 1888, "The Countess Cathleen" with the lyrics now collected under the title "The Rose" in 1892, and "The Land of Heart's Desire" by itself in 1894. They were revised and reprinted in one volume in 1895, again revised and reprinted in 1899, and again reprinted in 1901, 1904, 1908, and 1912.

LOAN STACK

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MAIN

*"He who tastes a crust of bread tastes all the stars  
and all the heavens."*—THEOPHRASTUS PARACELSUS.

## PREFACE

DURING the last year I have spent much time altering "The Countess Cathleen" and "The Land of Heart's Desire" that they might be a part of the repertory of the Abbey Theatre. I had written them before I had any practical experience, and I knew from the performance of the one in Dublin in 1899 and of the other in London in 1894 that they were full of defects. But in their new shape—and each play has been twice played during the winter—they have given me some pleasure, and are, I think, easier to play effectively than my later plays, depending less upon the players and more upon the producer, both having been imagined more for variety of stage-picture than variety of mood in the player. It was, indeed, the first performance of "The Countess Cathleen," when our stage-pictures were made out of poor conventional scenery and hired costumes, that set me