

**WITH THE EYES OF  
YOUTH: AND  
OTHER SKETCHES**

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With the eyes of youth: and other sketches by William Black

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**WILLIAM BLACK**

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WITH THE EYES OF YOUTH

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# WITH THE EYES OF YOUTH

AND OTHER SKETCHES

BY

WILLIAM BLACK

AUTHOR OF "A DAUGHTER OF HETH," ETC.

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CALIFORNIA

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TO THE  
MEMBERS OF THE  
ASSOCIATION



## P R E F A C E

WITH the view of making a complete edition of William Black's works, the following fugitive pieces, which appeared in magazines and elsewhere, have been collected and published.

These sketches offer exceptional knowledge of their writer, and are so grouped that they give in his own words, and in his own charming way, an outline of his life.

The first essay — "With the Eyes of Youth"—appeared in the *Fortnightly Review* of August, 1902. It was written early in 1898 for an American publication, and was the last thing that William

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Black ever wrote. It may be noted as a point of great pathos that this final piece of work was the record of first impressions of nature, the power of seeing and portraying which made him famous in later life.

The second sketch—"A Wild Day in '48"—appeared in *Harper's Round Table*, in 1897, and is a memory of the riots which occurred in Scotland as some faint echo of the Continental revolutions of that famous year. At that time William Black was seven years of age.

"The Highland Wedding" is referred to in the first essay, and is the story of an actual experience of childhood; it is retained here as a picture of fast-vanishing customs.

The fourth sketch is taken from *James Merle*, Black's first novel, written at the age of nineteen, and long since out of print and forgotten. But it was a wonderful

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book for a lad to have written, and it seemed worth while to rescue from its pages the graphic representation of old Lowland life, and of the celebrated Dr. John Brown of Haddington. It also gives us a reflex glimpse of the writer's boyhood.

The next two excerpts, "Round and About Hampstead," and "The River of Dart," are taken from another early novel, which has not been procurable for many years. Here we have English scenery as it appealed to the young Scotsman when he first came South; the description of the Dart has long been dear to the few who possess copies of "The Monarch of Mincing Lane;" and it shows that even in those days the minute analysis and accurate descriptions of scenery was William Black's strong point.

But incident also appealed to the young