

**WILLIAM BUTLER
YEATS AND THE IRISH
LITERARY REVIVAL**

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William Butler Yeats and the Irish Literary Revival by Horatio Sheafe Krans

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WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS



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BY HORATIO SHEAFE KRANS
AUTHOR OF IRISH LIFE IN IRISH FICTION



LONDON
WILLIAM HEINEMANN
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WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

AND THE IRISH LITERARY REVIVAL

PREFACE

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It is the aim of this book to give a sketch of the Irish literary revival that may serve as a background to the work of Mr. Yeats; to show how many phases of Irish life he has brought into literature, and in what sense he has given a new voice to the Celtic spirit; and in general to smooth the way to an enjoyment and appreciation of his poetry, plays, and stories. To understand these they must be seen in the light of beliefs in regard to mysticism and symbolism, which can only be come at by putting together stray hints scattered here and there through Mr. Yeats's work

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and combining them with what is said by way of exposition in *Ideas of Good and Evil*. Readers who are not prepared to investigate these matters for themselves may be glad to have a volume from which some idea of the relation of his various productions to central principles of his philosophy, and the relation of one production to another, can be gained.

All who interest themselves in Irish literature in English must be grateful to the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke and Mr. T. W. Rolleston for the *Treasury of Irish Poetry*, which they have edited so admirably. That book and Mr. Gwynn's *Ireland To-day and To-morrow* I have found especially helpful. I wish to thank *The Outlook* for permission to use what I