

MAURICE MAETERLINCK

"THE little gleam that flickers on the horizon, one cannot tell yet if it is a rush-light or a planet." In these or some such terms was Maeterlinck referred to, at the end of 1889, by one of the first critics of the *Princesse Maleine*. The writer had not been convinced by Octave Mirbeau's dithyramb, who, like another "wise man from the East," had greeted the little Princess "with the strange white lashes" as the shepherds' star of a poetical Messiah.

In very deed Maeterlinck's first humble essays in literature recall the lowly birth of the "Divine Child" in the dim poverty of a rustic manger—with this