

Maurice Maeterlinck

What would be Maeterlinck's fate? . . . In the first place he had to demonstrate his unfitness for the profession of the law for which he was intended. In this he succeeded brilliantly. With triumphant ease he lost the first cases entrusted to him—the first, and the last! At twenty-seven, in 1889, his career as an advocate was already closed, and his true career opening. . . . The episode alone suffices to justify that faith in mystic predestinations which permeates the work of this great thinker, from the *Princesse Maleine*, in which all the characters seem puppets of an inexorable Destiny, to the *Oiseau Bleu* (The Blue Bird), where we see the new-born arriving in the world, like actors coming on the stage, with parts all written out beforehand from beginning to end—this tender babe loaded with the tools of his future inventions, that rosy-cheeked cherub bringing with him