

Maurice Maeterlinck

university. Sheer contempt, culminating even in cruel insults, had been their fate in the Flemish city which they were yet to glorify with the nimbus of an intellectual Bethlehem. The poet Charles Van Lerberghe, author of the *Flaireurs*, sombre elder brethren of the *Princesse Maleine*, *L'Intruse* and *Les Aveugles*, has since written the golden pages of the *Chanson d'Ève*¹ and *Pan*; yet he died in 1908, wrecked, disheartened, misun-
1883; title, *Les Joncs* (The Rushes), triolets beginning thus:—

“ La barque glissait doucement
En frôlant les ramures vertes :
Sur le ruisseau clair et dormant
La barque glissait doucement ;
Une brise amoureusement
Enflait les voiles entr'ouvertes.”

(The boat glided softly, grazing the green boughs :
over the clear, sleeping brook the boat glided softly ;
a breeze amorously puffed out the half-spread sails.)

¹ Which in these latter years has inspired the music of Gabriel Fauré, the successor of Ernest Reyer at the Académie des Beaux-Arts.