

## Maurice Maeterlinck

*Princesse Maleine*, the future philosopher of *La Sagesse et la Destinée* (Wisdom and Destiny), had his beginnings in an atmosphere inimical to any and every flight of fancy. . . .

Three budding authors—Maurice Maeterlinck, Charles Van Lerberghe, Grégoire Le Roy, had recognised each other's gifts and exchanged clandestine stimulus as pupils of a Jesuit college on the banks of the Lys,<sup>1</sup> to find themselves later on in communion with a fourth—Émile Verhaeren—in the lecture-rooms of the local

<sup>1</sup> They had clubbed together to subscribe to the *Jeune Belgique* of Max Waller, the new-born review which was sounding with loud, aggressive trumpet-blasts the awakening of Belgian literature, the pages of which they devoured in secret conclave, much as other schoolboys smoke their first surreptitious cigarettes. Maeterlinck even contributed, when still a collegian, to the *Jeune Belgique*, under the pseudonym of "Mater," his first effort, a little poem which Max Waller, that cherub of letters, inserted with a light, half-joking commentary of his own. Date,