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What Is Wrong with the Stage: Some Notes on the English Theatre from the Earliest Times to the Present Day (Classic Reprint)

By William Poel

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from What Is Wrong With the Stage: Some Notes on the English Theatre From the Earliest Times to the Present Day Historians tell us that no drama of any kind existed in England before the Norman Conquest, and that for 250 years French Ecclesiastics composed and acted the first plays seen in this country. They were religious dramas written in Latin. In a Latin story of the thirteenth century we read that two friars, coming upon a large crowd in a field near a church, recognised that the spectacles such as they were wont to call miracles were being acted there, because the silence was broken only by bursts of laughter and applause. Perhaps this demonstration of the crowd was an Anglo-Saxon way of telling Norman Ecclesiastics that the common folk were not able to regard Latin Christianised plays with feelings of devotion. The peasantry did not forget that the Norman Conquest brought England back into the Roman pale. So when the religious play was removed from the church into the meadow, the vernacular mingled in...



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