

"A Pen Sketch of Oscar Wilde"

Mr. Wilde is fully six feet three inches in high [sic], straight as an arrow, and with broad shoulders and long arms, indicating considerable strength. His outer garment was a long ulster trimmed with two kinds of fur, which reached almost to his feet. He wore patent-leather shoes, a smoking-cap turban, and his shirt might be termed ultra-Byronic, or perhaps—decollete¹. A sky-blue cravat of the sailor style hung well down upon the chest. His hair flowed over his shoulder in dark-brown waves, curling slightly upwards at the ends. His eyes were of a deep blue, but without that faraway expression that is popularly attributed to poets. In fact they seemed rather every-day and commonplace eyes. His teeth were large and regular, disproving a pleasing story which has gone the rounds of the English press that he has three tusks or protuberants² far from agreeable to look at. He is beardless, and his complexion is almost colorless. In manner Mr. Wilde was easy and unconstrained, and his attitude as he conversed with the reporters and others was very graceful. A peculiarity of Mr. Wilde's face is the exaggerated oval of the Italian face carried into the English type of countenance, and tipped with a long sharp chin. It does not, however, impress one as being a strong face. His manner of talking is somewhat affected—judging from an American standpoint—is great peculiarity being a rhythmic chant in which every fourth syllabus is accented. Thus, when asked what was his mission, he replied in a sing-song tone: "I came from Eng-land because I thought America was the best place to see."

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¹ To have a low neckline.

² Protruding, bulging.