A SHORT WAY WITH AUTHORS: A BURLESQUE IN ONE ACT

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A Short Way with Authors: A Burlesque in One Act by Gilbert Cannan

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GILBERT CANNAN

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A SHORT WAY WITH AUTHORS A BURLESQUE IN ONE ACT

FOUR PLAYS BY GILBERT CANNAN JAMES AND JOHN - - - one act. MILES DIXON - - - two acts. MARY'S WEDDING - - - one act. A SHORT WAY WITH AUTHORS, one act.

A SHORT WAY WITH AUTHORS

A BURLESQUE IN ONE ACT

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GILBERT CANNAN

BOSTON
LE ROY PHILLIPS
Publisher

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CHARACTERS

Mr. Bessemer Steel.

Mr. Cheeseman Clay.

Mr. Percy Vigo.

Mr. Bauerkeller.

Bateman.

Callboy.

Dresser.

Miss Britannia Metal.

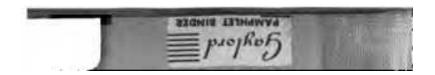
Scene: A Dressing-room in a London theatre.

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Læ Roy Penlare



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A SHORT WAY WITH AUTHORS

- The scene is a dressing-room in a London theatre. Time, 7.30 P.M.
- Door n. Door leading into a little room L. back, up a stair or two.
- Walls decorated with portraits of Mr. Bessemer Steel.
- Desk L., on which is a telephone. Dressing-table and cheval-glass L.
- In the far right-hand corner is a miserable-looking individual with a brown-paper parcel in his hand. This is MR. CHEEREMAN CLAY.
- The telephone rings; the door up the little stairs is opened, and BATEMAN, the dresser, runs down to the telephone. He leaves the door open, showing a glimpse of BESSEMER STEEL struggling with his clothes. He is dressing for a Georgian part.

BATEMAN

[At telephone.] Who? . . . Mr. Vigo? Has he an appointment? . . . Right.

CLAY

[Timidly.] Do you think Mr. Steel could see me now? I've been here an hour and a half. [BATEMAN ignores kim and returns to the dressing-room. CLAY slowly unwraps kis parcel. As he does so, the door opens and youngish man enters with a large envelope under his arm. This is MR. VIGO. He comes up to CLAY with nervous effusiveness.

VIGO

Mr. Bessemer Steel? . . . How do you do? . . . Shall I read my play to you?

[He begins to draw it out of his envelope.

CLAY

I wouldn't if I were you.

VIGO

I beg your pardon.

CLAY

I wouldn't if I were you. . . You see, I'm not Mr. Bessemer Steel . . . luckily.

VIGO

Oh. . . . I have an appointment with Mr. Steel for half-past seven.

CLAY

So have I . . . for six.

VIGO

Oh!

CLAY

He's in there . . . dressing.

VIGO

Oh!

[VIGO sits and there is a moment of painful silence. BATEMAN bustles across the

room and out by the other door. STEEL puts his head out of the dressing-room door.

STEEL

Anybody there?

CLAT

Two of us. . . .

STREL

Can't come out. . . . Dem breeches have split. . . . Oh, it's you, Clay. . . . How do?

VIGO

My name is Vigo . . . Percy Vigo.

STEEL

Oh, heard of you. . . Knock-out for old Ibsen. . . . What? . . . Sha'n't be long, once I'm sewn up.

CLAY

Doing well?

STEEL

Rotten... They won't take it ... won't take anything. No money in front of the house. ... Plenty behind ... thank God. ... Part for me, Mr. Vigo?

VIGO

I don't know any one who could play it better.

BTEEL

I should think not . . . I didn't ask that.

Part for me is what I said.