

**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

**A SHORT WAY WITH
AUTHORS: A
BURLESQUE IN ONE ACT**

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

BY

GILBERT CANNAN

BOSTON
LE ROY PHILLIPS
Publisher

33118
C.R. 1 Sh

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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LE ROY PHILLIPS

PLAMLET BINDER
Gaylord

gift
O.L. Quirk
6.26-56

A SHORT WAY WITH AUTHORS

*The scene is a dressing-room in a London theatre.
Time, 7.30 P.M.*

*Door R. 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. CHEEBEMAN 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 him and returns to the
dressing-room. CLAY slowly unwraps
his 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?

CLAY

Two of us. . . .

STEEL

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.

STEEL

I should think not . . . I didn't ask that.
Part for me is what I said.