

**SWEET LAVENDER:
A COMEDY IN
THREE ACTS**

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Sweet Lavender: a comedy in three acts by Arthur W. Pinero

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ARTHUR W. PINERO

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THREE ACTS**

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A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

BY

ARTHUR W. PINERO

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BOSTON

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THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY.

- HORACE BREAM (*a young American*).
- GEOFFREY WEDDERBURN (*of Wedderburn, Green & Hoskett, Bankers, Barnchester*).
- CLEMENT HALE (*his adopted son, studying for the Bar*).
- RICHARD PHENYL (*a Barrister*).
- DR. DELANEY (*a fashionable Physician*).
- MR. BULGER (*Hairdresser and Wigmaker*).
- MR. MAW (*a Solicitor*).
- MINNIE GILFILLIAN (*Niece of Mr. Wedderburn*).
- RUTH ROLT (*Housekeeper and Laundry at No. 3, Brain Court, Temple*).
- LAVENDER (*her daughter*).
- MRS. GILFILLIAN (*a widow — Wedderburn's sister — Minnie's mother*).

THE FIRST ACT.

MORNING. "NOBODY'S BUSINESS."

THE SECOND ACT.

EVENING OF THE NEXT DAY. "SOMEBODY'S
BUSINESS."

THE THIRD ACT.

A WEEK LATER. "EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS."

SCENE.

*Chambers of Mr. Phenyl and Mr. Hale, No. 3,
Brain Court, Temple, London. Springtime.
The Present Day.*

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

The author of "Sweet Lavender" begs to remind his American patrons—amongst whom there may be those who are unfamiliar with the mode of life he attempts to depict in this play—that a set of chambers in the precincts of the Temple, though constituting only a portion of a house, is a distinct and separate establishment. Each set of chambers has an independent door opening upon a common stairway, behind which door the occupant of the chambers is as much the lord of a castle as if he were in enjoyment of a mansion or a villa surrounded by a brick wall.

"Chambers" consist of three or four rooms, and perhaps a pantry, and are often shared by two boon companions. The female domestic attached to the house—who flits, not unlike the busy bee, from floor to floor—is, in the phraseology of Temple life, called the "Laundress;" and if, like Ruth Holt, she dwells upon the premises, she enjoys the further distinction of being the "Housekeeper."

The man who shelters in the Temple precincts obtains a silent security from the conventionalities of society. He is untrammelled, uncriticised, unobserved; and while he pursues the career, either of a devoted student or an ardent Bohemian, the oaken door which closes upon his rooms shuts him off from the world as conclusively as if he were a monk in a cell.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

"SWEET LAVENDER" must be regarded as one of the most successful stage-plays of modern times, and there can be no question that it has proved so far the most popular of Mr. Pinero's works. Its representations may be counted by the thousand, and its popularity has extended over many latitudes. The reason of this is not far to seek; it proclaims itself in the gentle humanity and genial humour of the play, and the lovable creation of the golden-hearted, weak-natured, down-at-heel Dick Phenyl. The very simplicity and unpretentiousness of this domestic comedy have apparently disarmed any antagonistic criticism which might have been expected from those critics of cynical temper and pessimistic mood who are wont to look for the stern realities of life even in the most purposely genial of theatrical entertainments. And if these, in view of the preponderance of kindly human nature in the play, elect to regard "Sweet Lavender" as a sort of modern fairy-tale rather than an actual and realistic study of life, certainly no one would be more ready to agree with them than Mr. Pinero himself. He avowedly designed the piece as a pleasant entertainment, and the proof that he accomplished his purpose is the fact of the phenomenally successful career of the work all over the world. Had Mr. Pinero in the early months of 1888 written a play of the order of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" for Terry's

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Theatre, the result would in all probability have been disaster.

"Sweet Lavender" was first produced on Wednesday evening, March 21st, 1888, and was from the first received with so much enthusiasm that at once the play-going public began to flock to Terry's Theatre. Mr. Pinero's comedy, in fact, drew the town, Mr. Edward Terry's Dick P'henyl became almost a household word, and the play held its place in the programme continuously until January 25th, 1890, by which date it had been performed as many as 683 times. But this was not the end of its career at Terry's Theatre, for, after Mr. Edward Terry's holiday trip to India, the actor-manager signalled his return by a revival of "Sweet Lavender" on October 4th, 1890, and between that date and November 26th of the same year, 54 performances were given, bringing the number of representations at this house up to 737.

The following copy of the first night's programme of the original production at Terry's will be interesting for future reference:

TERRY'S THEATRE,

105 & 106 STRAND.

SOLE LESSEE AND MANAGER, MR. EDWARD TERRY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1888,

FOR THE FIRST TIME,

An Original Domestic Drama, in Three Acts, entitled

SWEET LAVENDER,

BY

A. W. PINERO.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

MR. GEOFFREY WEDDERBURN (of Wedderburn, Green & Hoskett, Bankers, Barnchester) . . .	Mr. BRANDON THOMAS.
CLEMENT HALE (his adopted Son, studying for the Bar) . . .	Mr. BERNARD GOULD.
Dr. DELANEY (a fashionable Physician)	Mr. ALFRED BISHOP.
DICK PHENYL (a Barrister) . . .	Mr. EDWARD TERRY.
HORACE BREAM (a young American)	Mr. F. KERR.
MR. MAW (a Solicitor)	Mr. SAINT MATTHEWS.
MR. BULGER (Hairdresser and Wig-maker)	Mr. T. C. VALENTINE.
MRS. GILFILLIAN (a Widow — Mr. Wedderburn's Sister) . . .	Miss M. A. VICTOR.
MINNIE (her Daughter)	Miss MAUDR MILLETT.
RUTH ROLF (Housekeeper and Laundress at 3 Brain Court, Temple)	Miss CARLOTTA ADDISON
LAVENDER (her daughter) . . .	Miss NORREYS.

ACT I.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS.

Morning.

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.

ACT II.

SOMEBODY'S BUSINESS.

Evening of the next day.

INTERVAL OF TWELVE MINUTES.