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ENGAGED

W.S. GILBERT

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY ANDREW CROWTHER,
SECRETARY OF THE W.S. GILBERT SOCIETY

- Contains notes and extra material on Gilbert's life and the play by Andrew Crowther, the author of *Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan* and secretary of the W.S. Gilbert Society.
- The only standalone edition on the market, priced to appeal to both students and lovers of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic works.
- A neglected work of immense importance, acknowledged as being the inspiration for Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and thought to have influenced literary giants such as Bernard Shaw.

Engaged, W.S. Gilbert's most popular stage work after the comic operas he produced in collaboration with Arthur Sullivan, is a farcical comedy that has long lived in the literary shadows – although wildly neglected today, the play influenced literary names as great as George Bernard Shaw, and directly inspired Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Centring on a rich young man's search for a wife and his uncle and best friend's attempts to hinder him, the play toys with conventional notions of love and sincerity. In this edition, which also contains notes and an essay by the undisputed authority on W.S. Gilbert, Andrew Crowther, *Engaged* deserves to step out into the spotlight once more.

'The satirical comedy of Mr Gilbert has all the sting,
smack and strength of neat brandy... a sudden gulp of it is
apt to take one's breath away.'

THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS

'The laughter was almost incessant.'

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

William Schwenck Gilbert (1836–1911) was a dramatist, poet, author, illustrator and librettist. Although he was a prolific writer, producing around 75 plays and dramatic works, he is best known today for the comic operas he produced in collaboration with Arthur Sullivan, including *HMS Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*, which continue to enjoy huge popularity worldwide.



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