

GILBERT'S PREFACE TO HIS PLAY "ENGAGED"

NOTE

IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL to the success of this piece that it should be played with the most perfect earnestness and gravity throughout. There should be no exaggeration in costume, make-up, or demeanour; and the characters, one and all, should appear to believe, throughout, in the perfect sincerity of their words and actions. Directly the actors show that they are conscious of the absurdity of their utterances, the piece begins to drag.

W. S. GILBERT

24, The Boltons  
12th October, 1877