

The Bishop's Candlesticks

NORMAN MCKINNEL

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Norman McKinnel (1870–1932) was a Scottish stage and screen actor who played many Shakespearean roles. He appeared in numerous plays in the UK and in the US. McKinnel was also a playwright, and wrote several one-act plays. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* is his most widely read and performed play. (McKinnel played the role of the convict in the original 1901 stage production.)

THE PLAY

Characters

The bishop

The convict

Persomé, *the bishop's sister, a widow*

Marie

Sergeant of gendarmes

Time: The beginning of the last century.

Place: France, about thirty miles from Paris.

Scene: The kitchen of the Bishop's cottage. It is plainly but substantially furnished. Doors R. and L. and L.C. Window R.C. Fireplace with heavy mantelpiece down R. Oak settle with cushions behind door L.C.

bishop: a senior member of the Christian clergy, vested with administrative authority and responsibilities

gendarme: a soldier serving as an armed policeman in France

last century: The play is set in the early 1800s.

L.C., R.C.: (abbreviated stage directions) left-centre, right-centre

mantelpiece: a shelf that projects from the wall above a fireplace

settle: a wooden bench with a high back and arms