

# FOREWORD

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This little play, "I Can't Afford It" has an Ontario Farm and Village Setting, and is suggestive of many of the problems and necessities of country life. It was composed chiefly for use in country places, no elaborate stage equipment being necessary. The parsonage scenes require nothing more than the furniture of any average parlor, while the players are left entirely to their own wisdom as to how the street scenes may be set. This leaves room for the exercise of their own initiative in the matter.

The play has plenty of good healthy and clean humor, a pretty little romance, an averted tragedy, as well as many other homely touches of character. None of these however are overdone. Nevertheless in itself it is only a jumble of words. The players must make it live! The object of it is to develop the dramatic element in our rural young people, so that your success or failure with this or any other Play will depend upon You. Characterization is everything in the drama.

Suggestions along this line are given throughout the play but the greater part of it is left to the players themselves. First stick to the language of the manuscript, second, make the language your own, and third, learn to be free and easy in the presentation of it. The play has been given several times, and with great success. Here's hoping for yours,

JOHN R. PETERS, B. A.