

FCM Penicuik

Nov 21st

My dear Mr Unwin,

I have the MS of the Raiders and I have begun to go over it, very carefully, so that there might be as few blunders as possible. But I do think that as I asked you specially that you might have given me a little more rope on the matter of corrections. I know that Longmans give my father in law (George Milner of country Pleasures in their Silver Library) 10s a sheet margin instead of five; do try and see your way to that and it will be a great load off my mind. I shall not trespass more than I can avoid I promise you.

I shall sent it up in sections, so that part can be printed and returned as proof as I am going over all the rest. I am up every morning at 4.30. Think of the blessedness of being a publisher and not an author to whom the publisher issues his mandates about having the MS on the spot by a certain time. A loud 'Laudamus' ought to rise from all the purlieus of the Row and especially from No 11, round at the back. Yes, Appletons are to publish the American edition of The Lilac Sunbonnet, which in due course will be offered to you after experience of the other three. It looks very well in type. They have set more than a half of it already. The other copy of the Stickit ought to wake the Spectator up. By the by I said a month ago that I wanted 24 copies of the new edition. You will send them as soon as they are ready. I shall remember in future and be more guarded in what I tell my friend Dr Nicoll.

I shall be with him during the latter part of Feb and early weeks of March if all goes well, or I shall see you then, and before I tell him anything for his paper I shall consult you so that the Athaeneum or other of your papers may get it at the same time. I think James Barrie is to be there about the same time. Seaton, whom you say you have not heard of (quite naturally) is the 'new Scottish writer' whom John Murray has been placarding up here with great expenditure as 'Author of 'brancraig'. Well, I'm not proud but I would not sign my name to a chapter of it. Nicoll says it is very poor stuff. How we Scottish scribblers love one another!"

But I love Barrie in spite of the reviewers who did their best to set us against one another. But they won't say if they are not abject asses, that the Raiders is like Barrie. They will have to invent something else.

We shall talk or communicate about the Children's Library book later. I am glad you like the idea. I am choked up with ideas. I am now writing at my leisure and carefully a queer kind of story about a kind of medieval persecuting gentleman who was pleasantly possessed with a devil and took to the hills like a King Nebuchadnezzar, but I don't know whether anybody will look at it after it is done. It is lively but the friend who objected (not on his own accord) to the Faas bridebed might put on his caveat.

With kind regards

Ever truly yours

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