

Bank House

January 20th 1896

Dear Sam McClure

1001 thanks about the Galloway Herd. Pitch it into 'em strong the low lived beasts.

The Men of the Moss Hags is the only published book I have written since the Raiders

The Lilac Sunbonnet was my first book in date of writing which I care to own. It was written before the Stickit Minister and is emphatically the book of my youth. The sketches in Bog Myrtle and Peat were collected and edited by myself to keep off the rude pirate's hand. Some of them were written and published nearly 10 years ago. But I heard that certain amiable gentleman were going to collect them so I thought I had better be on hand myself. Of course there is now much copyright matter in the book. The Playactress and Mad Sir Uchtred were two short stories which I wrote about the same time as I wrote the Stickit Minister. The latter ran from day to day in The James Gazette a paper to which I shall always be grateful for giving my work a place before any other London paper had opened its columns to me.

The Stickit minister was written in July, August, September. 1892. as separate papers in a paper called the Christian Leader. It was published in March 1893. And since that date, the only books I have written. have been the Raiders and the men of the Moss Hags. Of course of books which are now running serially, I have written since then Cleg Kelly and The Grey Man. All the others were written before the date of the publication of the Stickit Minister. Over 250,000 of my books have been sold since 1893. Not bad for three years work. I put my best work on a book, honestly and squarely just as a mechanic would on a pet job. Anyway, it's the best I can do at the time. If it's a misfit why I just say like General Braddock, 'I'll do better next time.'

I believe in a fellow who breaks out in a fresh place and does not go on copying old successes. He'll come on his nose occasionally, but he will strike virgin soil even with his nose.

By the way, RLS asked me to tell the story of Cleg Kelly and I did it chiefly to please him. Alas! too late. I am to be in London in March. Old shop.

Greetings to your better (and certainly much better looking) half
ever your friend

SR Crockett.