

Penicuik

22nd September

Dear Mr Unwin,

I thank you for your exceedingly kind letter to me which I received this morning. It is quite satisfactory. Indeed it is generous and helpful as well as encouraging to have your good will and good word.

I hate business and know no more about it than a cat; therefore I have to get an agent to do business for me. As Mr Wylie introduced my work to you, I thought it fair that he should make his own terms and so on; but Mr A.P. Watt will act for me on future books. I feel that my business is to write and when I have a clear mind and a long day I can get through a good deal.

Of course Mr Wylie has for a long time been connected with me through the Christian Leader for which I have some years been main contributor. Among this other payments to me, it is of course well understood that he pays me 6d a day on all copies he gets from you at the special price.

I shall try to make the story 25,000 words. I have one in my mind which as a Clergyman I could hardly put my name to. When written it may do for the P. I shall keep it in mind. It is Italian and Scottish, and, I think, will be the thing.

The note of mine which you enclose re the royalty was written somewhat hastily on the advice of a London friend of mine who knows the bookmarket and who thought I should get more than 10d for future editions. I had not the agreement by me, which however now that I have referred to it, is clear enough.

I thank you for sending me the royalty cheque before the date of settlement mentioned on the paper. Still more for the generous way in which you send me the additional sum of Ten Guineas and for your promise to do in like manner if the editions go off as they have done.

Don't you think it would be as well to advertise on or two of the notices and little cuttings from them as Wylie does in Scotland. Not that I mean to teach my grandmother to suck eggs, but I have been missing the Stickit out of your lists lately, and he has not done so badly that he needs to hide his head. (Galloway – guid conceit o' himsel').

Well, I think that is all, except that I would like my two copies of the 3rd Edition when convenient. Kindly let me know how that goes. There is a story of mine (7000 words) in the Pall Mall Magazine for next month – or perhaps Nov 'A Cry Across the Black Water' I hope you will like it if you see it.

With kind regards and thanks for your generous treatment

Ever truly yours

SRC

