

Bank House,
Penicuik,
Midlothian.
12 Apr. [1899 ?]

Dear Pennell,

Yes, I ain't a BEAST - only for a long time I looked rather like one. I had a nasty (and ugly) semi cancerous growth on my jaw which the butchering doctor fellows excised six weeks ago. I'm just out of hospital. It was it wasn't anything congenital, praise the pigs, but begotten years ago by the stroke of a golf ball which caused a plate of bone to grow outwards. However it was ripe and beginning to send shoots southwards into my throat. So it was time to do for him.

So done for he was, and I've made a splendid recovery. There's a sort of Gulf of Mexico in my jaw still only it don't show and I can send a very successful Gulf Stream (of whisky and soda) past it now.

We had better have a talk of the joint Galloway book.

I told the people who asked me to do it, that I would wouldn't have anybody else but J.P. (the great and only) to do it with me.

If they wanted anybody else, the thing was off.

They were [entre le tois] Hodder & Stoughton through their manager of literature Dr Robertson Nicoll. I don't mean to offend them of course, but I would like Macmillan better if we could arrange it. [The M's] have just bought two of my great (unwritten) works.

Will you be in London from now on through April and May into June. I'll try and run up and see you. The book wouldn't be any goer till about June 1900 (for publishing purposes) so it would need to be ready then and that the drawings should be done this year. If for 1901 they we would have longer time.

Certainly H & S would give you MacM's terms anyway and the publishers would pay you. I also am purely commercial when it comes to work.

Yes I am a great artist. I've always known that. My touch is so fine. I was down at remote [La Grand] last year as ever was. Here it is. [*There is a sketch inserted*]
You can see the plain elevation of the Pulitzer Building.

My kind greetings to the lady principal. I ain't allowed to smoke any more, but I can eat fruit salad.

Lor', I wish I'd some now! I've written a book to the praise and glory of America in Europe. There's one BEAST in it though I once came across, a malcontent, he was!

as ever

S.R.Crockett

Artist in
Black and White

