

Bank House
Penicuik
Midlothian
Private
October 22nd 1894
Dear Dr. Macleod,

Many thanks for your most kind letter. I am delighted that you approve of and like "The Men". I have certainly put ten times more labour on it than on it than I put on anything I ever wrote. So you may imagine how pleased I am that you are pleased. Only Mr. Andrew Lang and Mr. Barrie have read it before you, and the judgement of both was, I may say, highly appreciative. Mr Lang's criticisms are specially valuable for he looks at it with loyalist and Jacobite eyes, so that I am able to anticipate criticism.

Re the bracketed explanations, I put them into "The Raiders" at the urgent request of Unwin, much against my judgement, and bitterly regretted it. It was the only thing that suffered. I have taken them out again very sharply, and 'won't do so no more!'

It is wonderful what the English will take nowadays. I have studied the subject a good deal and believe that they actually like a little mystery. Your better judgement, you say, is against them. I also am on the side of the angels, so I think we will let things slide. I shall explain in a footnote any extra-hazardous word; but I heartily believe that the public dislikes being too much coddled.

You agree I am sure.

I am for my sins and a good sum of money, coming to Glasgow to lecture for the "Athenaeum" in January on "Our National Humour in Fiction".

I wish to goodness you knew some of the officials there and could say a word privately (and not as if it had come from me) to get me a good man as chairman. I hear a rumour, which I can hardly credit that I am to be introduced by the proprietor of the Christian Leader to a Glasgow audience!! Please the pigs, NO!

Yourself would be best, but I could hardly ask you to manage that, but any man of weight and position would do. Anyway, do try and I shall be forever grateful. It will be about 7 on 18th I think. I shall see you then, and have a crack. I don't know anybody in Glasgow except Drummond and even he I only know a little. So we'll manage our crack somehow and shut out the bores.

I heard the Herald was amusing itself by finding literary borrowing in the Lilac. I never heard of Mr. Skellat Bellman. It was a tale of my Granny's and of course the idiot did not know that Mess John was used for every minister last Century.

Ever yours

S.R. Crockett