

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

18th May 1894

Dear Mr Crockett, Come, I was very angry with you, but I have not the heart to be longer, and shall just swallow my little ruffling in silence or what is perhaps better irrelevant speech. True it is and of verity that I have not yet read *The Raiders*, though it has been a month here. There are certain times when fiction becomes illegible to me, fades out, becomes blank paper, and I am in one of these fits of heresy. But I shall read it soon. In the meantime, what a success you have had! How grateful you should be! And with how much penitence you should recall your faithless and dispirited words of last year, which I then chastised you for and made you repent in ashes and rags.! I fear with every book that it may have no merit: I never fear it will be so full of merit that the public can't see it.

'There are two publics; one about 10,000 persons, who like literature qua literature if its good and about 100,000 persons who like ink upon paper if it's interesting. You can't live on the first public but the first public with its 10,000 voices is the great advertiser, they dance with the 100,000, they meet him at dinner, and they sell your book whether it likes or not.'

'I say, if you're on the Covenanting racket, let the wheels of your chariot move a little slower for pity's sake. Is it Cameronians you are after?'

This is to give notice that the United Societies

Is Reserved Strictly

RLS

For three years, because, by that time, I shall be really seeing my subject and then I'll race you.

Yours sincerely,

RLS