

Penicuik

Oct 20th

Dear Mr Unwin

My wife was I hope explicit. 'The Raiders' is that 'Rogues Island' of which I spoke to you. That name reminiscent of Treasure Island for the common reviewer. I believe it is my magnum opus and I want it out soon, because I believe it to be a reputation-making book. I have studied the history and legend of Galloway for long and for two years I have worked at it. I would like before it went through the press to go over it again thoroughly to make the style tenser and tenser.

The plot and story are as good as at present I can make them. I have tried for a book of adventure which would be one of character also. I have studied every detail yet tried to subordinate to a general picture. If I have succeeded you will know. It is at any rate a kind of Iliad of the traditions of Galloway in the first quarter of the 18th century – a perfectly untouched time.

If you were not anxious about a short title the title I should prefer would be 'John Faa. Outlaw, Lord and Earl of Little Egypt. Which also is accurate and characteristic, but I fear too long

'The Earl of Little Egypt.

'The Lord of Little Egypt'

'The Outlaw' would be best but of course somebody will have annexed that.

The main question is however if you care for the book. I think it is in fact of all I have written immeasurably the best. Remember it needs cleaning up and the M.S. is so dirty that it is hard to read as my stuff always is, but it would come out all right.

Mr Watt has 'The Playactress' about 33,600 words and if you like this adventure book, it and] the Sweetheart are to be placed with you to issue at your convenience. Of course I would like the Galloway book out as soon as possible.

You will see that I do not forget my old friends, nor will I.

Ever truly yours

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