

FCM Nov 18 1893

Dear Mr Unwin,

As you say our letters cross and recross but still we understand pretty well. You will find me up to time with the MS and proof of the Raiders – we shall pass it very rapidly. Yes, I suspected it would be that way with the Spectator.

I fear that I can hardly do as you say with regard to Nicoll. In fact he has been my friend so long and so intimately that I should be very shabby if I did not put anything his way. In fact I had already (only last night) written to him as to the Raiders. I don't know whether you know that I usually stay with him when I come to town. His wife is a friend of Mrs Crockett's. I may say that notwithstanding his connection with H&S he has never pressed me to send my books there, but always said that I should do well with you. I am sure that his leader in the British Weekly did us a great deal of good in Scotland with the Stickit. He is a power up here I can tell you. I had no idea that I should not write Nicoll or I would have timed it in accordance with publishing – as you say. I shall consult you about it again. But I am sure that Nicoll will do us only good. I don't know that I have much from Stevenson that we could print – I would not care to put anything from a private letter and we want to keep the poem for the Illustrated Edn of the S. I have the promise of a good many sketches from different artists for that. The selection of criticisms which I made some time ago and forwarded to you would print very well, along with the Stevenson parts which I have just sent.

I shall be glad to hear from you with regard to the 'Playactress' when it is your convenience. I am writing a good many short stories just now for different papers – one for Nicoll's Woman at Home (another for Blackwood) will I think be good. I have quite as many new ones to select from for another volume as I had for the first, and the Sweetheart Traveller papers would not need to go into such a collection but might be made a volume like your pretty Children's library, with a cycling drawing or two from Mr Pennell if he could be induced to do it.

With kindest regards

Ever truly yours

S R Crockett