

Bank House
Penicuik
Midlothian

4 April 1898

Dear Thin,

I ought to have written you before but I have been abroad going to and fro on the Earth like another wandering gent who shall be nameless. Also I am going off to South Italy again on Tuesday in search of local colour for a new story.

Last year was, as you know, bad owing to Jubilee etc this one promises much better already. "Sir Toady" did well at Christmas, and I think from what the "Graphic" and "Harpers" say that the Red Axe due in September will beat my record.

Let me send you two cheques! (I ought to have done so before) The water is low in the mill dam just now; but there will be some in ten days and a good deal in six months.

I send therefore, if you will permit me to do so for old sake's sake one cheque for £30 due in a few days when my people will have paid in something, and another for Fifty dated when my September cheques come in.

These two will break the back of my over long indebtedness. For the rest I will (the publishers being willing) defray this time next year.

How will that suit?

We are all otherwise well, and hope for St Andrews in summer - as well as perhaps, if you will be persuaded, to see you, either there or here with Mrs Thin mine ancient friend.

Kind regards to George,

Ever truly yours,

S.R. Crockett