

Penicuik
Nov 30th 1893

My dear Thin,

Your pleasant and always welcome letter came tonight and I hasten to say how sorry we both are that you have been laid up. It is not often that you get laid up together. That makes a sad household altogether for a little, and you will need to be careful this winter. It has set early in and there will likely be a long time of it. Ruth keeps fairly well and we are looking forward with hope to the better times. The poor folks here are badly off. [Cavans] are only running - in some of their departments, those that affect the mill girls, three days in the week and there is a great deal of quiet suffering. But the miners have not give out yet and there is hope. If they do it will be a terrible time for us. I fear that I am becoming more conservative in my old age, for the selfishness of the miner leaders has nearly soured me on that question. They never think of the women and children, and many of them go drinking into the public houses while the bairns are crying at home.

The books go well, and the proof of the Raiders is just beginning to come in. It is to be out on the first of March. The Play Actress (late The Great Preacher) will follow about May or thereby, and the Lilac which is already set up in America by the Appletons looks very well and will be at out simultaneously in both countries on October 1st. The Appletons are a good house, are they not?

I fear I shall have to do without the Biographical Dictionary for some time though there is no book at all which would be of such journalistic use to me. By the way I have copy of Stevenson's Pentland Rising which I shall be glad to send you any time you could allow me the market rate for it. It is a dear morsel and some time you might be able to get me a good price for it. There are several other rare books which I do not care enough for locked up. I would rather put them into utilitarian literature such as the Biographical Dictionary. You will have a set of the Abbotsford Waverley in 12 volumes. I saw a volume by chance the other day and strangely enough found the illustrations very suggestive. Have you a set you could lend me for a little till I see if it would help me - a half bound set preferred. Look and see, like a good chap. I hope you will both be better when December comes and that I shall be able to come to you then. But I shall not come if I am to be in the way.

With kindest regards,
Ever truly and cordially,

S.R. Crockett