

Penicuik

Jan 29th

My dear Unwin,

Thanks many for your cheque. It is welcome this weather when the coals are dear. Did you remember that when you sent me the cheque for the second edition in September and a little additional cheque in recognition of the fact that the edition had gone well – you were good enough to say that you would do the same with succeeding editions if they too did well. You will remember that it was at the time when Mr Wylie and you had some correspondence, but there is no reason why we should not arrange these matters between ourselves. Your letter was dated September 11th 1893 and in it you say ‘I have now much pleasure in enclosing you a statement for the second edition, and enclose cheque for royalties. I have also much pleasure in enclosing an additional cheque (for ten pounds) in acknowledgement of the success of the said edition. As soon as the third edition is sold out, I shall have pleasure in forwarding you a cheque and royalties accrued, and if sufficiently profitable, shall be happy to add another one in acknowledgement of the fact.’

When you make out you a detailed statement to Mr Wylie and myself of the third and fourth editions, no doubt you will take that into consideration. I only venture to remind you of it in case you had overlooked it during the intervening months and amid your mass of correspondence. I observe that you simply send me the present £15 on account of royalties – so that no doubt it is all right. I was just ‘kind o ways’ as we say, counting on it, when the bank folk began as Stevenson says ‘to remind’ one of the fact that they might much more decently say nothing about. So inconsiderate of them!

Anyway, thank you for the cheque, and for your continued goodwill. I am busy correcting the last sheets of the Lilac Sunbonnet. It pleases me a good deal – more than I thought. But you should see the Yankee proof set up from my original M.S. – the Scots dialect is marvellous and would make you shudder. I shall be very glad indeed to have the book printed by Clark – they are a first rate house – second only in my mind to Constable, who however have an artist in Blaikie for their head. I send you the book of plays of Stevenson’s. I should like my book done like that. It is somehow better cloth than the Stickit and of course the thinner paper makes it look better, but that book in format is almost exactly what I should like for The Raiders. You can return it at your leisure. By the way, I am coming up to town in the first week of March, or perhaps the second. It will depend on the day of issue of The Raiders. I shall see you then and have a long talk about all manner of things.

It does one good to show up when one’s book is in the hands of the critics – so at least, says Nicoll. I should come later, but I have taken a larger house, and am leaving the Manse in May – preparatory to leaving the Kirk also – which at present, tell not in faith or elsewhere.

With kind regards, ever truly yours

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