

FCM

Feb 25th 1893

Dear Mr Unwin,

I fear I must very indifferently have expressed my meaning. I did not at all mean that poetry was not in your line – only that my verses were not. I have largely lost taste for them myself. They are a past issue for me, and would not troubled [sic] about them, but that a number of people occasionally worry me to send them some of my old verses – and others (Nicoll, Over etc) want me to publish them. I quite agree that they are not worth it. I think however that you will change your mind about the fiction. I have not had a show yet in fiction. ‘The Galloway Herd’ needs pulling together and rewriting; when it will be something, but I have something in my head which ought to do. We shall see. I shall get off in July and August to an island in the Solway, where I am to write a story of four very lively Crusoes which I shall try to make as realistic as your reader wished - there is a love story in it too and I shall try to put in the two-o-clock in the morning feeling which one has when one must get up and go off to tramp flounders for breakfast. That’s realistic enough, if you like. I’ve a good title too – which you shall hear all in good time. At that season, you will be grilling at Chicago – not so? That will be an added coolness for me to think of it! The ‘Stickit’ and all his clan are really fictitious [sic] There are types of course; but not a single one of them can possibly be localised. Generally they are wholly, as stories, stories; though the environment and characteristics are drawn as near the quick as possible. I don’t want to settle down to short stories – though that is what is most quickly marketable for me, I find.

There is only the second Revise of the ‘Stickit’ now and then it is off hand!

Again thanking you for your kindness and with best wishes,

I am

Always truly yours SRC

