

Bank House

November 12 1897

My Dear Unwin

I have been at St Andrews most of the summer and now I am going aboard on the track of a new book. I am afraid there is no book of mine which I can offer to you for the next year or two. But I shall bear the matter in mind and be prepared when I have anything to make the proposition to you.

With regard to Simpkins and The Grey Man. It seems to be a matter which a publisher ought to deal with without consulting the author and I have never previously been informed as to these things. But if you find that there are insuperable difficulties in the way of dealing with Simpkins would you be disposed to allow me to exercise my option of taking the book into my own hands on the terms of the 5 year clause. Should you be willing to do so and should I decide to take over the book I could then deal with Messrs Simpkins as circumstances might require. Messers Simpkins are selling thousands of all my books in the year and doubtless those of The grey Man in their hands will speedily depart also.

Still if the matter is a difficulty to you. I dare say we might arrange it as I have suggested above.

kind regards

faithfully yours

SR Crockett

P.S. I will answer the application from the reprinting man in the affirmative