

FCM

Penicuik

Nov 30th

As a kind of sett off – [audi alteram pattern?] to the London critic of the Playactress, I have today the following from one of the severest and shrewdest critics in London – who hardly ever praises. It may be an encouraging view for you as the publisher, but I think I see my way greatly to improve the story. I have this morning got past the critical chapter in *The Raiders* by rewriting a good deal and cutting a good deal more. I think I shall be able to quicken the action very considerably and leave no phrases. The same thing will hardly happen again, for I have always serial proofs to correct by – and in the case of the *Lilac* I have also the American edition which is in type.

I was sorry as I told you for the premature [] in the Bookman, but as I also told you I had written to Nicoll before I knew there could be any harm.

Review:

Go over it again. It is a fine story and I like it much, especially the situation on pp33, 34 and 35 which drew tears from me. I would suggest the [] of the last line it somewhat to my mind interferes with the artistic finish of the story – the beginning might be pulled together somewhat.