

FCM

Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

My dear Mr Watt,

I have as you know been very anxious just now and with some cause; I must tell you that your manly and straightforward help has been a great joy to us; and we will soon settle down to the paying of it off; and so far as in the future lies in my power you shall not regret having stretched out the hand to one whom you have known such a short time. I think however that you know me and mine fairly well. So here is my hand to our continued friendship.

I think you have done admirably well with Unwin – far better than I anticipated for book rates. You must had had your business rapier unsheathed when you settled. I think the terms are specially good for the ‘Playactress’ which was written as a bye issue in the composition of ‘The Raiders’ but which took so greatly with the Scottish public that I took greater interest in it myself. I am quite prepared to recast it, tell Unwin, and write me your own ideas about it. George Alexander has promised to revise the London theatre part, and advise generally. I should decidedly prefer anonymity – though it is perfectly well known in Scotland that I wrote it - my name appearing in the paper. But it has been a success here so that won’t greatly matter. Tell me what you think it needs yourself. Your judgement is as good as anyone’s I know. Of course I have not put my strength into it as into the Raiders and the Lilac but there is (to my thinking) something good in it too – especially in the little girl and the Great Preacher face to face with an unexpected good [ ] on the stage.

Let me hear how you get on, and what you think right to be done with the Playactress. I will walk up to your advice with regard to that young woman to the letter. They are kittle cattle Playactresses.

Ever cordially and gratefully your friend

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