

Penicuik
Oct 27th 1893

TFU

I am obliged for your kind letter of yesterday's date. I am exceedingly glad of your good opinion of the Raiders – that is of course only a provisional title. It has cost me a great deal of work and so far as I am able to judge the best and strongest work I have ever done is in it. I should have been glad of course if you could have seen your way (if you accept it) to publish in the end of November, but the spring would do quite well. If, however, you could not issue the Raiders till the spring and Mr Watt put the Playactress in your hands, I should like it out at once – and for this reason – it would keep up a continuity of production, and then there would be the Raiders in the spring and in the autumn would be clear for The Lilac Sunbonnet which is a large book of about 106,000 words, and is a study of love and adventure, the love being as predominant as the adventure is in the Raiders. The Second Stickit could come then also without any difficulty, and there would be more papers to select from, specially the 'A Cry Across the Dark Water' which is to appear in the Pall Mall Magazine. Though of course I have no power to commit Mr Watt, who has a perfectly free hand, I have no doubt whatever that, other things being equal, you would have as in this present case first chance at the Lilac.

I should like to be able to correct freely in future books, and I want to expunge the corrections clause in the agreements – for as you yourself said, it is a pity to spoil the ship for the hapworth of tar. I should not make any changes wantonly, you may be sure. Then I would like 24 of each first edition of any book and say a dozen of every future edition (and by the by I could do with a dozen of the Stickit now, all sorts of people and institutions write me for copies). There are I think no corrections that I want to make in the Stickit – I shall however, have a look, but kindly intimate to me when you reprint. I shall be glad to hear about the Illustrated edition, when you hear from Mr Pennell. MacGeorge could do pen drawings but he is best in oil black and white as in the vol of Bards of Galloway I sent you.

I shall write to Mr Watt about offering these volumes now, but in the case of the second volume of the Stickit he has not the MS, nor would I care to make up the MS till I got out a number of my best papers which are now going to magazines as in the case of The Cry Across the Black Water.

Faithfully yours
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