

Private & Confidential

11 Craven Street, Strand
19th March 1894

Dear Mr. Norman,

I have just heard that it is the intention of someone who is to read off or take part in the Agent discussion to introduce my most private affairs into his letter, and that they have been already spoken about at the Authors' Society.

I do hope you will not allow a word to appear in the Chronicle about "a poor Scotch parson", the phrase I heard. ~~to appear~~ [sic]. You have no idea what terrible harm that might do to me in Scotland, where it is a culpable thing for a man for any cause to be without money.

Will you accept my word and assurance that Mr. Watt took up at my request my work on his usual terms long before he was good enough to oblige me financially to a certain (not very large) extent and entirely outside his usual line of business. 2. That I asked him, having told him fully the circumstances, to do for me what was a considerable relief at the time. He did so purely as a friend ~~and on accordingly favourable terms~~ and the matter is at any rate a temporary and very inconsiderable one. After it I remain in precisely the same position as before with regard to my agreement with him. Mr. Watt in fact acted as my banker ~~for a month or two~~ for a short time and the arrangement was ~~wholly~~ entirely an obligation to me and no benefit whatever to Mr. Watt. At the same time it might be (and indeed would be) misunderstood by very by many people in Scotland, and I am sure you will not allow anything to appear which would injure me there in that tenderest of all points to a Minister.

I suppose everyone has found a time when temporary accommodation done in a friendly way helped a lame dog over a style; but it would be very hard if in another man's quarrel all that (misrepresented) should be printed in a great literary Journal.

On the general question I am sure you will let me say my say, if need be; but I am also sure that you of all men will be the first to understand and sympathise with my difficulties as a Minister ~~as well as~~ as and an author as well.

I shall look in and have a talk if you care, and in any case I am coming to see your wife. I have got the volumes of Dulce Cor and Valete Fratres for you from home.

Only this matter came upon me like a flash and I write hastily to tell you the exact truth.

Ever truly yours,

S.R. Crockett