

Mr. S. R. Crockett

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THE WOMAN AT HOME was fortunate two years ago in securing Mr. Crockett's clever

serial, "A Woman of Fortune," which was published last summer under the title

"Ione March." The brilliant Scottish novelist is still a young man. He was born on September 24, 1860, at Duchrae, Galloway, and the scenery of his best books is laid in this district.

He was educated at Edinburgh University, at Heidelberg, and at New College, Oxford. In 1886 he entered the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland; but before this

time he had turned longing eyes towards literature, and had visited London for the first time at the age of eighteen. He had already done literary work on various papers in Scotland, especially on the *Daily Review*, and he thought it might be possible to find an opening in the south. For six months he lodged in Portland Street, off the Strand, and

quickly found work enough on the daily and weekly papers to provide him with a livelihood. He used often to go to hear Mr. Spurgeon at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and sometimes he went to St. Paul's to hear Dean Church and Canon Liddon.

For eight years Mr. Crockett was minister of the Free Church in Penicuik. He re-

signed five years ago in order to secure greater freedom for literature.

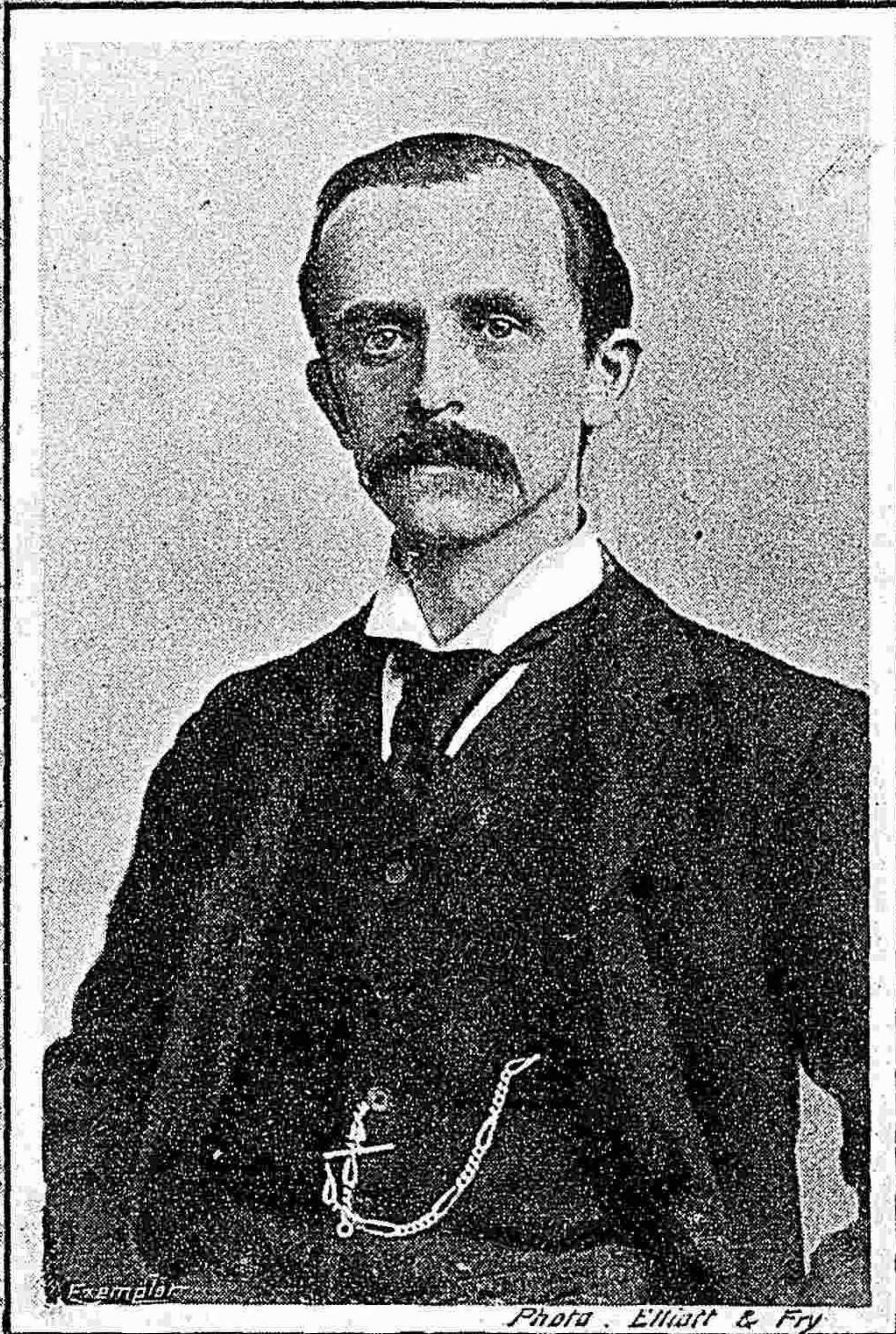
His first published book was a volume of poems, called "Dulce Cor" (1886). The remarkable

success of his novels has never tempted him to settle in London.

He prefers his country home at the foot of the Pentlands, and often wonders how novelists can work in great cities. His

ideal is a house in the heart of woodland scenery, with the bairns playing about the door

and the heather close at hand. He has many friends in Edinburgh; perhaps the best of all is Dr. Alexander Whyte, of Free St. George's. English admirers of Mr. Crockett have little idea of his splendid preaching gifts. We have heard him deliver a magnificent sermon on the Covenanters from the pulpit of Free St. George's. Lord Rosebery has



MR. J. M. BARRIE