

Seaton House
St Andrews
July 13th 1895
Dear Unwin

I gave permission to a friend of mine for whom I have a great regard to set my song. I said, of course you would need to be consulted, but I was sure you would have no objections, for I had heard you say you never objected.

I shall be very sorry if you absolutely refuse, not for Boosey's sake, for whom I have no feeling at all, but for my friends to whom I gave permission without ever supposing that you would not give it.

I have told you often that I don't interfere with my agent in a matter of publishing. I understand that you refused Bog Myrtle and so Bliss and Sands got it. I did not read the criticism you enclosed. I never read criticism of any kind, not finding it helpful. As for the publication of Bog Myrtle, I need only say that I have already received nearly four figures as the returns of the sale, which compares favourably with any other returns whatever. I can tell you, however, that no American syndicate has obtained command of my books there. Indeed, Appleton's returns have been so satisfactory that there is great reason to continue at least with them in some things.

But I know no reason why you should not have future works of mine. Quite the contrary. That is my agent's province and not mine. Most of the firms to whom my agent has sold books have, first of all, taken the serial rights, in which case, of course, it is natural that they should have the other rights.

But I think I can say that if you are inclined to be civil to Mr Watt and treat as man to man with him as Smith, Elder and Longmans, for instance, constantly do then there is no reason why you should not have the offer of my books. I have a volume of fighting stories to be called 'the Clash of Swords', which would succeed the Grey Man to be issued in March 1897.

That is all that is clear to me or planned at present.

with kind regards
faithfully yours
SRC.