

Bank House,  
Penicuik,  
Midlothian.  
July 6, 1902

Dear Mr Macwilliam,

Your letter from London dated Mar 21st has just reached me. I have been in South Spain, North Africa, and other semi-barbaric regions, and so I only got my vast accumulations of mail today. I think both "The Firebrand" and "The Dark-of-the-Moon" are charmingly got up, and share your regret that other books go away from the noble old firm of Macmillan.

But you see I spend only a short space of time in Britain and only a few days in a year in London. I leave Mr Watt to do my business for me.

All my books are on 5 year's leases with the exception of one (which could be bought in) and I am prepared (through my agent) to arrange for a uniform edition of my books in the future. I think some such offer was made to you by Mr Watt.

As ever, the Serial rights are the crux, as you understand. There are many papers and magazines which can afford to pay large prices for serial rights, but almost all except the Graphic and the Pall Mall Maga. are in the hands of publishers who stipulate for the book as well. Of course many like the British Weekly sell to the People's Friend, the Glasgow Weekly Mail or other papers which do not interfere with their public.

Of course my books spread among publishers, but pray observed two things – first, within five years I could collect them all in the hands of one publisher, and second, believe me that from the point of circulation it does not matter whether my books are issued by a firm like yours at the top of publishing or by James Clarke & Co. who are only newspaper people dabbling in books. Indeed often the small people are on their mettle and with a special traveller, do wonders. So well has the sale of my books kept up that I have so far issued no 6th editions, though daily importuned to do so.

Now I also have unburdened myself, and when I am in London next perhaps we might have a "crack" together for further clearance.

I have my next two books with "The Christian World" (Clarke's, who have had five of my books) and the other with Ward Lock (who have had two). The latter is to run through the "Windsor" next year as the serial for 1903. You could not expect either of these to give up the books, after doing well with "Joan of the Sword Hand" and "Kit Kennedy" respectively. You wouldn't have done it yourself now, honest Hiawatha, would you?

Yours very truly

S.R. Crockett