

Letter from W. Robertson Nicoll to A.P. Watt
Bay Tree Lodge

March 30th 1900

My Dear Watt,

Many thanks for your kind letters. I would have answered them before if I had not been like yourself partially disabled. I have been struggling to keep about, but yesterday the doctor examined my lung and said there was a large patch on it, and that I must on no account leave the room till he gave me permission. I am hoping that we shall both soon be out.

1) As regards Crockett's book it is most kind of you to think of getting some money from America. I need hardly say I should be very grateful for the more I think of it the more it seems to me impossible that any money can be made out of the expensive edition.

I had W.B. Blaikie of Constable's in the other day. He has had very large experience in such books, in fact he has printed most of them, and he says without hesitation that the maximum sale is 300. This would mean a considerable loss which would hardly be covered by the ordinary edition. I am sure neither you nor Crockett wish the book to be a loss to us as that does good to nobody, and I should be quite satisfied if it paid its expenses, as I think it would if the half of Pennell's money were recovered from America. In any case however I will stand by my agreement so far as Pennell is concerned, and you shall have the £300 when you wish it, though I think in the event of failing to make any American arrangement it would be right that Crockett should agree to take no money for the first edition unless a certain number were sold.

(signed) W. Robertson Nicoll