

FCM

31<sup>st</sup> May 1893

My dear Mr Watt,

Thank you many times over. It is a great relief measureless. I count it not the less obligation that, of course, the arrangement is to be placed on a business footing. If I am well as I am, I trust, I shall have placed a great deal of work in your hands by that time, and I may have some of my own if Wylie pays up before November.

I had a reply from the Scottish Provident about the policies. They are for £1000 and £500 and their paid up value is just about £200 less than I had supposed. They were effected in 1887 and 8 and are of course paid to date. But we shall be able to arrange some rate by [ ] note or as you arrange. I put myself in your hand, and shall keep myself clear for the big works that are before me. I am well on with the Lilac S, and I regret with every chapter that you did not have it instead of W. However we shall make it go when it comes out as a book.

It is ridiculous of Wylie – like a boy and not a man of the world. He cannot hope to keep me just because his father printed the first sketches. I have a note this morning saying he is coming through. I wish he would accept facts. He speaks about ‘money he has sunk in me’ being lost if I give agency to you – this is both fanciful and absurd. He has paid me 7/6 a column (600 words) 10/- a thousand for the sketches hitherto, and I should say that he is debtor, not I, considering what a lift I have given his paper. He may not quarrel with me; but it looks a wee like it just now.

I shall take your advice and certainly not quarrel with him if I can help it; but if he puts it as a choice between giving up him and placing my affairs in your hands, I shall not hesitate for a moment. I think it is quite likely he will go up to London to see you; but he will come here first.

Your letter brought a kind of peace to this house this morning. It made it seem like a Sabbath morn in Galloway

With all goodwill and heartiest thanks

Cordially ours

SRC

