

FCM

April 4th

My dear Mr Gosse,

Your letter was charming – one of the most delightful I have ever received, and one which will delight my wife when I go home.

My home address as above is quite sufficient. I am out of the Manse and not yet in Bank House, where I hope one day to see you when you are in the North and can look out from Edinburgh (1/2 hour by rail) but Penicuik will find me at any time.

Will you let me send you 'The Stickit' and my little volume of poems 'The Sins of my Youth' it ought to be called – yet necessary as a rung of growth so you will understand. For reasons connected with the law of supply and demand it is somewhat scarce and I am not sure that I should commit it to the mercies of any man of letters except yourself. You will I know calmly put it on your shelves, the highest in the corner of the (?) room, and over it the literary spider will spin his reticularies (if that is not a word it ought to be) So like pet (snayone) I am more than usual calm. It is kind of you to give me such a welcome to your house. It made me very happy to be with you all. I wish I had time to tell your big girl about my little one and our wonderful journeyings. I shall certainly come again on my own account and if I am in the way you must just turn me out.

I shall be charmed to have Narcisse. It is the only published volume of yours so far as I know which I do not possess.

You speak so kindly about the Raiders that unless you have the verses and the Stickit you would not know how I got to be by nature both a Cameronian and a Raider. That gives me a sympathy with Silver Sand, a character which has been called a monstrosity; but with which I have the greatest possible sympathy.

With all regard

Ever truly yours

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