

Letter from A.P. Watt to G.E. Lock (Ward, Lock & Co.)  
Hastings House

25th July 1902  
G.E. Lock Esq.  
etc

Dear Mr. Lock,

As I advised you when I had the pleasure of seeing you the other day I forwarded your letter dealing with maid Margaret to Mister Crockett and the following is an extract from his letter in reply:

“This is unexpected to put it mildly. “Maid Margaret” is of course historical and carefully studied. I could not change her sexual relations for they were - plain on the face of things, thus and not otherwise. But I have already done something to an idyllic love story of the “Raiders” plus “Lilac Sunbonnet” vein, which I thought of calling “Marion, a Love Story” or else “Wandering Will”. If I laid aside other work and went on with the writing of this at once I could keep all my terms. Messrs. Lock might need to give me a little latitude and I should rely upon them doing so if necessary. I cannot put off the story to a later date, - I was counting on a story of mine appearing in the “Windsor” during next year - nor can I submit the new book to criticism. Messrs. Lock must accept it as it is; it will be an idyll and, frankly, “virginibus puerisque.””

Under these circumstances I shall be glad to hear that you are willing to accept “Marion” or “Wandering Will” in place of “Maid Margaret” and, as we substitution of the one story for the other means that we have to cancel the arrangement with Messrs. Appleton under which we had sold them the American serial rights of “Maid Margaret” for the sum of three hundred pounds (£300) and the United States book rights for a further sum on account of royalties, I have told Mr. Crockett that I have arranged with you that you are to pay us (in addition to the amounts you have agreed to pay under the terms of the agreements between your firm and Mr. Crockett) one half of any loss to him incurred by being unable to sell the American serial rights of the new story or by being unable to sell them for a sum equal to that which Messrs. Appleton had agreed to give for “Maid Margaret” viz £300 (three hundred pounds). In other words - if Mr. Crockett fails to sell the American serial rights of the new story altogether you are to pay him the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds (£150); if, on the other hand, he should succeed in selling them for say £150, you are then to pay him £75 - half of the difference between £150 and £300.

I shall be greatly obliged if you can kindly let me have one line from you confirming this arrangement by this evening's post as I wish to write to America by tomorrow's mail offering the American serial rights of the new story.

Believe me, dear Mr. Lock,

Yours sincerely,

A.P. Watt

etc etc

