

FCM

Feb 28th 1893

My Dear Mr Unwin,

Your delightful note came in just now and set me to thinking. You are open for a Pseudonym. Well, I think I could advantageously cut 'The Galloway Herd' to the size of 'A New England Cactus' or a little more. I see my way to straighten out the plot, leave out the Introductory Chapters (which make a story by themselves) leave out the French part and generally make more idyllic and less melodramatic.

I send 'The Herd' with an indication of what chapters could be left out. Wylie will tell you that it lifted the circulation of the Leader some thousands in a few weeks and that more than a thousand dropped the week it stopped. I need not tell you Dr Nicoll's opinion of it. You are quite as able to judge as he. I could improve greatly as I went along, and if you say the word I would leave other work and deliver MS currently week by week. I would need to go over each chapter. If you think the idea would do, I am game to go ahead. I would start with chapter IV which is a London Chapter.

I have the main article in the Bookman this month 'The Apprenticeship of Robert Louis Stevenson' It may interest you to see it.

When you return the Herd (in any case whether you want it now or not) you might send the spare sketches. Take a look at the 'Sweetheart Travellers' sketches. They will make a book some day, with some illustrations. I am going to send Mrs Fisher Unwin a portrait of my sweetheart aged 4 ½. We have great journeys together – and are planning more this summer.

Alas, there is almost a snow block outside, and our mails etc have to go by horse (mailbags across saddle) as in the Olden time when things were so jolly –uncomfortable.

With kind regards

Ever truly yours

SRC

