

Bank House,  
Penicuik,  
Midlothian.  
10 Feb. 1903

My Dear Hammerton,

Certainly, take what you like of any old articles on R.L.S. They are journeyman work, but true. Put the dates and give the source, of course, for they are really Nicoll's property, but my permission will "go" all right.

I had meant to do something about R.L.S. soon after his death, but the reported speech of Mrs Stevenson that "his friends hasten to make money out of him" stayed me. I have however a nice little surprise party for the world someday - about 30 letters from him, remarkably outspoken personally. But both Mr Colvin and Mr Andrew Lang agree that they can't be published within one particular lifetime, at any rate. So they rest on the shelf of a safe in the mean time.

If you use the verses he sent me for the Edition de Luxe of the Stickit, you had better quote the original dedication of the Stickit which was its text, and the beginning of the letter he sent me with it. I send you the "Stickit Minister's Wooing" in the preface to which you will find an exact account of the whole, which with due acknowledgement to Messrs Hodder and Stoughton you can use if you like.

I am going off again soon, and if I can be of any service to you my safest address till July is

Mons. S.R. Crockett  
chez Banque Munroe et [Cie]  
7 rue Scribe  
Paris

who send to me via the Bank of Spain's branches as the Postal Service of the [Tawny Land] is perfectly unsafe.

By the way, of the Bookman article of May 1893, Stevenson wrote:- "I noted your Arcadian hand in the Bookman, which I see. It stirred my heart to read of Allermuir and Rullion Green. They would be under your eyes as you wrote. Very likely you can raise your head and see them NOW!" Ah, why are there no more two Arcadians and not one only! Speaking of Arcady, are the onions good this year? I had promised him some very big ones, specially grown on Pentland side, served with his favourite white sauce over them if he would come to Penicuik.

No, I never saw Black & White, with your article; but those who love me were made very happy by it - which after all is to me the main thing. I thank you for it very sincerely. Milroy told me you had sent back the files all right.

Glad you liked the "Flower-o'-the-Corn." It is going very well, I hear. It must have been a little strong meat for the Clarke's "Christian World" public, don't you think. At least they want "an Idyll" next time. I am busy with Spanish stuff for "Good Words" but they are playing the Devil and all with my really good photographs. They won't pay for good paper or printing. Please send for a faithfully profane man, a printer for choice - and tell him I'll stand a gallon if he will express my feelings fully.

Ever yours

S.R. Crockett

