

26th Jan

Savoy Hotel

I enjoyed our talk today very much, and I certainly owe you a very deep debt for the courteous way in which you have met me. I shall try not to disappoint you in any way. Let me thank you for the splendid selection of the Pseudonym which came in just now. They are Treasure Trove for my wife - who with womanly instinct has selected 'Some Emotions' to start work on. I shall start work on the rewriting of the 'Galloway Herd' on my return and let you have it as soon as I can. I shall keep before me the writing of something as good as is in me for the Pseudonym. I think I could promise it by the end of August (70,000 words) I would write it in my holiday retirement in the wilds of Galloway.

You have looked over the stories in the vol of 'Stickit Minister'. Could you indicate which style you think would suit the Pseudonym best. If I had an idea which you took to my mind could play round that kind of subject.

I have a story motif in my head – for a story of about that length 'the Kirk of the Remnant' the story of two men at the beginning of the century who fell out about a girl as is the manner of men – they became ministers of one of the smallest and most 'split up' of Scottish Kirks – orthodox to the bone and farther – the Kirk split and split till they twain only remained as Ministers in full standing – all others had defaulted – There was one theological student, and the girl about whom they fell out, who was the hope of the Kirk of the Remnant. He was to preach for one of the two – a Minister far in the country. On a snowy Saturday night, the senior suddenly discovered that the younger was unorthodox and turned him out of doors. There was a presbytery meeting (the two ministers) and the two ministers in full standing differed about the lad, and one deposed the other.

A love story of the lad's running through and other matter – the atmosphere I made a study for in 'The Split in the Marrow Kirk' which is in the 'Stickit Minister.'

If you think this will do, I'll write it for you, better than the rest (I think I may praise) if you will take it. I work best when I know it is to be taken. If you think a story on these lines – as good as Hugh Hamilton or the Stickit (I think the better) would do, tell me and I shall begin to lay it out. I hope to see you again, but I shall hold myself at your service. I would not willingly intrude on a busy man.

With kind regards

Ever truly yours SRC