

Penicuik

Dec 12th

My dear Publisher,

You had not had any letters from me for some days – a remarkable circumstance. But the reason is that we had had my wife very near the edge of the Valley of Shadow – she is not quite out of danger – is very weak, but is now again conscious and as it were again one of ourselves. But it was a hard time and I have not been able to do much. I hope that proof of the Raiders will soon begin now. Try and hurry them up. I can't do my revision with spirit till I see some proofs to encourage me.

Appletons are nearly through with the Lilac for American copyright. Still, I am working hard at various things. I am hunting up all my artistic friends, trying to get them to give me sketches for the illustrated edition of 'Stickit' that we may make a beautiful book out of it. You might look at the directory (I have not one) for the address of Earnest Warterlow ARA. He is a good friend of mine and would give us one. He was up there with me the year before last. He 'flitted' as we say and sent my wife a note of the new address but I cannot find it. I send also some other things. They are by Burn Murdoch, who illustrated Andrew Lang's angling sketches and he does them very beautifully. He would do the head and tail pieces very beautifully. Some of his ideas are exceedingly good. Then yesterday Denholm Young a member of the Glasgow Institute and I think of the Watercolour Soc, sent me in a present two the most beautiful studies of the 'Raiders' Country, one of which shewed the country of the [] would I think do instead of the map. When I have heard from him I shall send them to you. He sent them as a practical contribution to the 'Stickit' which he admires. He had seen a notice of the Illustrated Edition. I may say that it is creating great interest in Scotland and I am sure it would be a success. I was speaking about it to my friend Thin of Edinburgh, and he told me that there was not a doubt that all the Edinburgh firms (except perhaps Mach??) Would subscribe largely. Glasgow, Wylie would work. I think we should get under weigh as soon as possible now. What do you think?

With kind regards, Ever truly yours

SRC

By the way the parcel of St Nicholas came, but somehow what I said has been overlooked. I said I find twice on my scroll letters that it was vols I-XIII inclusive I wanted. I had all the recent vols. I shall have to send back, except half vol for 1881 which is the only new one

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