

(Professor Masson)

Bank House,
Penicuik,
Midlothian.
12 June 1896

My Very Dear Professor,

It is very like a special thumbscrew on my heart (to be for once a Patlander) to set you at me for a something.

Lord knows how I'll ever manage it. I've a bit buikie of 120,000 words to deliver on the 15th of September and I've been up at strach of day for months working on it. This will go on till September, but if the Committee give me an extra week or two I'll see "if I'm spair't", of which there is no certainty and little likelihood, if I've to tug at the oar like this.

My mood, in fact, is the conditional oblativ. Barkis is very willing, but Barkis is mortal.

But in September, I'll see what remains of me. If nothing, you can put a photograph (cheap process) of my tombstone into the Album, which will do just as well -

Hic facet
One who tried to contribute
to this album
his
intentions were good
his
execution feeble,
but
he died trying

As ever yours,

S.R. Crockett