

Wend - Goldschmidt
saml.

20th November 1910.

Dear Maude,

Harry has asked me to answer your letter to him, since in part it concerns me as well.

Firstly to tell you - with his thanks for your kind inquiries - that he is now improving rapidly, though naturally fretted by the partial restraint imposed upon a man of his activities.

I hope that my presence here - we have been at work for the past week upon the preliminaries of "Wilding" - may have had the effect of keeping him from moping too much as he must have been in danger of doing.

Now in the matter of 'The Lion's Skin' we are both very pleased, indeed, that you should see yourself in it. Speaking purely for myself, it amounts to something more - to gratification & self-satisfaction. I saw your performance in 'Pompeii' just when I was on the point of starting work upon the book, & I derived from it something more than a measure of inspiration; you afforded me the model I required - I always work 'from the life' as far as possible - and, to put it shortly, with no idea of creating a part for you, but purely for the book's sake, I wrote 'Justin Carlyle' round yourself. Nothing ^{naturally} could please me better than to see you as the protagonist where you have been the prototype, and you may depend that as soon as Harry and I are in a position to go into the dramatisation of the story we shall be delighted to give you the first refusal of it.

With kindest regards from Harry & my own best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
Rafael Sabatini