My dear Mr. Hall Caine,

We reached home last night and directly I got to work again this morning I went into the question of whether or not it would be possible to tempt Heinemann to relinquish his claim on your next book. Figuring the thing out, I came to the conclusion that nothing short of ten thousand pounds would be of use to him, and I need not tell you that fifteen thousand pounds plus ten thousand pounds would make it impossible, whatever I did for the book, to get any profit. However, although coming to this hard rock-bed of fact will leave the Roman book in his hands, I want to see if I cannot make some arrangement with you as to its successor -- to which, indeed, you referred as a possibility. Will you consider the following offer and see whether you can sign a contract embodying its conditions before leaving for America?

Supposing that the story falls not short of a hundred thousand words, I acquire it at the price we mentioned for the Roman book -- fifteen thousand pounds for all rights except the dramatic rights -- for five years from the date of publication. But if we dispense with serial publication, for twelve thousand pounds.

I should propose, if you are willing, to acquire an option in the story in this way: I will pay you on the signing of the contract a cheque for fifty pounds as a nominal sum in proof of the seriousness of my proposal, and for which you undertake to give me the refusal of the book on the above terms for six weeks after you can let me see, let us say, the first half of the manuscript with the briefest of suggestions of the remainder. If I came to the conclusion that for some reason the story did not suit me, or some untoward happening prevented my carrying out my side of the contract, the fifty pounds would be, of course, forfeited to you.

Furthermore, the two successors of this book I should have the right of accepting at any price that you could get offered elsewhere.

You might think over these suggestions. As far as I am concerned they are quite definite, and if anything is not clear to you and you will let me know, I will immediately explain further. I could, too, if necessary, meet you at Liverpool on the eve of your departure.

My wife and I enjoyed immensely our visit to you and Mrs. Caine, and we cannot thank you sufficiently for your kindness. Certainly, inspite of the hurry, we are very much better for the Manx air.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank Richard.
Send Richard - A copy - John Henry

Hall Canie Exp.

Gruba Castle

Crosby

Isle of Man