

2  
become degraded. You have explained  
the fatal act, & while not condoning  
it have excited pity for the offender  
so we self-victimised as well as  
victimising; you have shown how the  
venerable law operates of "be sure your  
sin will find you out" & "as a man  
sows so shall he sow"; but you have  
touched also the possibility of expiation &  
resurrection. Your pages left me in a  
tremulous state of exhilaration. I  
felt thankful such a work had been  
performed. I felt satisfied that something  
had been achieved to help us to  
understand each other & ourselves. Let  
me as one reader, representative I am  
sure of thousands of others to come,  
express my deep gratitude to you  
for revelation & consolation.

You have now completed, I may  
venture to say, an important series of  
works, destined to endure, dealing  
with the great problem which has  
many sides - the problem of morals  
as it affects both men & women, the  
causes of breaches of law, the

TELEPHONE  
No 488 CHORLTON.

Mr J Cuming Walters M.A.

SLEDMERE,

EGERTON ROAD,

CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY.

April 17. 21.

My dear Sir Hall Cairne

I read your new book through  
yesterday from beginning to end, not able to  
leave it, & not skipping a word. I was  
enthralled, both by your subject & your  
treatment of it. You are beyond personal  
flattery, & I hope I am above bestowing  
it: I do but record my honest conviction.  
The impression your works have always left  
on me has been deepened & confirmed -  
that as a searcher of the human heart  
you are unequalled. You probe into the  
very depths. You understand the underlying  
causes of human strength & human  
weakness, the springs of passion, the  
temptations which overwhelm us, & the  
grand redemptive qualities which may  
eventually prevail. Most of us have  
had our thives & our trials like your  
typical man who, without actual  
vice could stoop to a deadly sin, & who,  
with fine ideals could forget them &



3

consequences to the individual, the judgment from the world's standpoint, of the power & opportunity of vindication, restitution, and rehabilitation. Finds not in any case condone the violation of the ethical code. But in "Red men than forest me" & now in "Went to war" you enable us all to realize that Nature must be reckoned with & that our artificial barriers do not always suffice; & above all, we must not adopt a hard, rigid, unsympathetic standard unduly towards those who transgress. How poignant is your description of your young hero's feelings after his downfall: his fear, his remorse, the gnawing at his conscience, and so painfully does it, that you grip us in his own suffering & terror - that is

4

a mighty achievement, only possible to the consummate artist who is giving forth himself. It has seemed to me that you were writing with your own blood & fire, stirred by an acute knowledge of the truths you were eager to express, & animated by a keen & extreme sense of duty. Am I right? I said your book down saying to myself - "There is something done that needed doing, & it has been done by the right man."

I feel very proud to be ranked among your personal friends - & real friends I feel we are by community of thought, by concurrence of sentiment, & instinctive agreement on main principles. I am glad you have had the strength & the courage to write this last book which so finely rounds off your series of volumes which are not only novels that fascinate us by their story but treatises which we value for their philosophy. Perhaps to thank again for the book, & for the special privilege you have given me of an early reading. In time I hope to say more of it publicly. With kindest regards I am, yours very sincerely  
L. Curving Walters