

**LETTERS
ADDRESSED
TO A.P. WATT**

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Letters addressed to A.P. Watt by A. P Watt

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LONDON A·P·WATT
& SON: HASTINGS HOUSE
NORFOLK ST: STRAND 1909



From 'The Autobiography of SIR WALTER
BESANT.'

' Let me here express my great and lasting gratitude to my agents, Mr. A. P. Watt and his son, by whose watch and ward my interests have been so carefully guarded for eighteen years. During that time I have always been engaged for three years in advance ; I have been relieved from every kind of pecuniary anxiety ; my income has been multiplied by three at least ; and I have had, through them, the offer of a great deal more work than I could undertake. I cannot speak too strongly of the services rendered to me by my literary agents. Of course, there are different kinds of agents. There is the agent, for example, who knows nothing about his business. But the agent who does know his business, who knows also editors,

publishers and their arrangements, may be of immense use to the novelist, the essayist, the traveller—in short, to the author of any book that can command a circulation and a public demand.

‘And such an agent is Mr. A. P. Watt.’

EXTRACTS from 'London Letter' recently contributed to 'The Bookman' (American edition) by Dr. Robertson Nicoll, Editor of 'The Bookman' (English edition), 'The British Weekly,' etc. etc.

THE LITERARY AGENT

Some twenty years ago Mr. A. P. Watt was engaged with Mr. —, then almost at the head of the publishing trade, as reader of manuscripts. Mr. — did not maintain his position, and his shrewd and able coadjutor cast about for another field of labour. As a matter of friendship, he disposed of a story by Dr. George MacDonald, and in this way the idea of a Literary Agency occurred to him. Since that time he has advanced by sure and rapid steps, until a very large part of the publishing business is done through his hands.