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1899

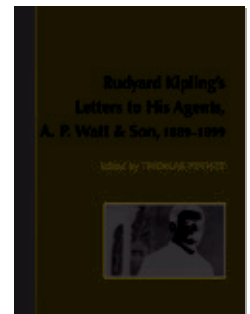
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Kipling, Rudyard and Thomas Pinney.

Rudyard Kipling's Letters to His Agents, A. P. Watt and Son, 1889-1899.

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1899

To A. P. Watt 19 January 1899

ALS

The Elms, / Rottingdean, / Nr. Brighton.

Jan. 19. 99.

Dear Watt,

Yes. Besant can quote my remarks if he thinks they'll come in useful¹ but so far as myself is concerned, I fancy people understand now that I do business through an agent and an agent only. They've given up advising me how to manage my own affairs: but I notice in the papers that a good deal of gratuitous advice is offered to authors to the effect that the agent is a dangerous animal etc. whose influence is demoralizing from the literary point of view. This strikes me as impertinent.

Always yours

Rudyard Kipling²

Note 19 January 1899

1. I do not find anything identified as from RK in the next two numbers of *The Author*, including an article on literary agency in the March number.

2. There are no more letters to Watt in 1899. RK left for the United States with his family on 25 January. On 20 February he fell ill in wintry New York; pneumonia developed, and for some time he was close to death. While he lay in that condition his daughter Josephine died of pneumonia. RK was not fit to return to England until 14 June. He never resumed a regular business correspondence with Watt thereafter. CK, who had already taken a large share in RK's business affairs, now took over completely and finally.

Watt's access to RK on business matters was now almost exclusively through CK, RK continued to write directly to Watt, but in a much-diminished flow, and almost entirely about personal matters. For an account of this later correspondence, see the Introduction.