

11
'Greycoat'
New Milton
Hants

June 28th

AL/2595

Dear Mr Bentrick

Many thanks for sending
me the little book. The
writer seems to me a gentle
and a sincere character;
and in one or two places
I see she has had a moral
object in getting rid of
the immachities of the
original version - the Devils
and the Swine for instance.
But I cannot get rid of

my prejudice against a
re-telling of a narrative
which has already been
told better - when there is
no fresh purpose to serve.

So whenever this book
merely tells a story again,
with nothing but a few
moralising thrown in from
the individual view-point,
I am mildly engaged
at any one for thinking it
worth while.

I get, as a result, what
I call 'a vegetarian Christ'.

Pavcett Library
87 Wilfred Street
London E.W.1.

that is a Christ with
most of the meat taken
out of him, & goody-goodie
put ⁱⁿ its place.

The fact that behind
this general prejudice I
scent a writer whose
personality seems pleasant,
is a sort of testimonial
to her attempt. Nothing
nice would have come
through if there wasn't
something nice in her
handling. So let's leave
it at that; and don't

tell her that her book
has failed to 'charm' me;
for I dare say she will.

Thanks for the wish to
bring us together; but all
through August my dates
seem packed into a circular
tour - Suffolk, Surrey, Warwick,
Somerset. A later date in
September would be more
possible for me.

I was glad to see that
G.B.S. made the protest
you were wanting against
the man in chains. Anybody
worth his salt would back
Prison if he got the chance.

Always sincerely yours
Lawrence Houseman