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WAVERLEY NOVELS.

Letter of Sir Walter Scott Denying Their Authorship.

General James Grant Wilson contributes a remarkable article to the New York Independent containing an alleged letter from Sir Walter Scott categorically repeating over his own name his famous denial of the authorship of the Waverley Novels. Samuel Warren, subsequently the famous author of "Ten Thousand a Year," when a medical student, wrote to Scott on July 26, 1823, asking Scott's advice as to the best method of publishing "The Diary of a Physician," upon which he was engaged. The reply came a week later. It is addressed to Samuel Warren, Esq., 4, City-road, London, and is at present in possession of his son, the Rev. E. Walpole Warren, D. D., rector of St. James's Church, New York. The letter itself, of which the Independent gives a fac simile, runs as follows:

"Sir,—I am favored with your letter of 26th, which some business prevented my sooner replying to. I am not the author of those novels which the world chooses to ascribe to me, and am therefore unworthy of the praises due to that individual, whoever he may prove to be. It is needless, therefore, to add that I cannot be useful to you in the way you propose; indeed, if you will take my advice, you will seek no other person's judgment or countenance, in the project of publishing which you entertain, than that of an intelligent bookseller who is in a good line in the trade. Although no great readers, unpretending to particular taste, those gentlemen whose profession it is to cater for the public acquire much more accurate knowledge of what will give satisfaction to the general readers than can be obtained by a man of letters in his closet. They have also ready access to good judges, and their own interest presumptively commands them to give as much encouragement as possible to genius, or anything approaching it. Excuse these hints from one who has had some experience, and be-

lieve me, sir, your most obdt. servant,
 WALTER SCOTT.

"Abbotsford, Aug. 3."
 There have been so many forged autograph letters of late that the reader will at once suspect that this may be one of them, and that General Wilson has been misled. He anticipates this objection, however, and writes:—
 If in these days of Burns and Scott fabrications any sceptical reader is disposed to doubt the genuineness of Scott's letter, it may perhaps be sufficient to say that I am as familiar with Sir Walter's handwriting as with my own, that the full old fashioned quarto sheet is post-marked Melbourne, with the proper date, which certainly could not easily be counterfeited, and that the letter is among the literary treasures (also the original MS. of "Ten Thousand a Year") of Dr. Warren, who received it from his gifted father nearly a quarter of a century ago. The epistle was unknown to Lockhart, as well as Scott's late biographers, and has in a measure been perdu for more than an ordinary life-time.

General Wilson suggests that Scott's denial was on the ground that to be known as a professional writer of novels would affect his social position among the class with whom he preferred to associate. His financial failure compelled the disclosure.

Two Polar Bears Born.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 11.—The first polar bears ever born in the United States made their appearance yesterday in the winter quarters of the Barnum and Bailey circus. They are twins. Besides being the first white bears ever born here, it is believed they are the first ever born in captivity. The cubs are about the size of shepherd dogs, weighing about 47 pounds each. Polar bears are worth \$1000 each.

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