

October 14th, 1949.

ROSE LAWN,  
KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,  
KENT.

Dear Frank Snell,

God boy to send me that cutting. I never seem to see these things, but some kind friend always seems to weigh in and let me know. I had not seen the paper, but someone told me of it and I wrote to them; but I am very glad to have the cutting to keep. Many thanks, my dear boy.

I have had good news of Tom Merry's Annual. It comes out in about a month, but last week the publishers sent me an advance copy; and did it please me? How any publisher can produce 300 quarto pages for 7/6 is "wropt in mystery". Twice as much as a Bunter or Tom Merry book, and then some! When I saw it, you could almost have heard me smile, all the way to Bideford! They tell me that 14,000 copies had been sold up to a week ago, and it is still going strong, though not to be published till November. Did I ever tell you that this world seems to me a jolly old place? Now it seems jollier than ever.

It was very good of you to send along a spot of information to the D.M., and it was quite a bright idea to let

them have a C.D. I should be extremely interested to hear of any development therefrom.

Bunter's Christmas Party and Bessie Bunter both came out to-day. And would you believe that this 'ere day as ever was, I have done three hundred autographs on end-papers for binding in specially selected volumes? It is a long time since I have used a pen so extensively: not I think since the nineties, when I used to do 5,000 words a day with a pen. I did not change to a typewriter till 1900--since when I have used no other! The pen may be mightier than the sword: but it isn't even an also ran in comparision with Remington!

Thanks again, my dear boy, and kindest regards,

Always yours,

Frank Richards