

ROSE LAWN,  
KINGSCATE-ON-SEA,  
KENT.

November 4th, 1948.

*answ  
Nov 25*

Dear Mr. Gander,

Many thanks for your letter of September 20th, with the S.P.C. and the extremely interesting photographs. I guess I would give a great deal to push out in a canoe on that lake.

The bungalow----yes, we call it a bungalow, derived I believe from the Indian word "bangala", ----looks very jolly--and might be standing in Old England from its looks: though we should lack most of the gadgets you keep underneath.

I almost jumped when I saw "Vanadlian Jack" in your letter. I had forgotten it for about sixty years. Actually I read some of the instalments when they appeared: though I was, I suppose, getting a little old for "Boys of the Empire" then, I think I read two or three instalments. Wasn't there a character called "Old Labrador", and wasn't he killed off in the most inconsiderate way by the author?

By the way, on the subject of old boys' papers, a book called "Boys will be Boys" has recently been published, in which Frank Richards is very fairly dealt with, and which is just one long chuckle from end to end. I don't know whether you will see it on your side of the Atlantic: but Herbert Leckenby tells me that he

is going to review it in the C.D., so you will get a large spot of it, I don't think I ever enjoyed reading a book more. The author is a chap with a real sense of humour,

Now I have a little bit of news that may interest you. A new publisher has asked me to write "Tom Merry" books, on similar lines to the Greyfriars books. So Martin Clifford is going to be as busy as Frank Richards. Now I want another publishing johnny to push in and ask Owen Conquest for some Rookwood books, and yet another to demand a few "Westerns" about the Rio Kid from Ralph Redway, --and perhaps still another to request C.H. to get going with "King of the Islands". But perhaps all that is too much to ask in a time of paper famine!

I think I told you that Bunter in Brazil will be out at Easter. Probably Tom Merry will turn up about the same time. One must be thankful for small mercies.

I gather that you are feeling the benefit of the Beach, and hope that you will keep fit.

It was quite curious to see the "Gem" picture in the S.P.C. This was the first I'd number: it had been a halfpenny up to then. The double price was rather a venture in these days -- how different from these! According to calculations on present costs of production, that penny Gem would cost about 8d. -- if it could be produced at all, which of course it couldn't.

With kind regards,

*Frank Richards*