

35, Westholm,
London, N W II.

October 16, 1945.

Dear Mr. Stewart-Hunter,

I am very glad to hear that you found 'Plus ça Change' amusing on the radio. You say that you would like to hear one of my school stories adapted for the radio: to which I can only reply "Now you're talking!" But I have not been asked to do this, and I am much too shy and modest to suggest it to the BBC.

I am afraid there will be difficulty in picking up my Pacific talk, in this country: though I hope for the best. It is quite on the cards that it might be repeated later on the Home Service, as of course it will be recorded.

I must thank you very gratefully for taking the trouble to type out a copy of Brogan's remarks on my writings. I have heard about this several times: but never actually came on it, so it is extremely interesting to me to read what the good man said. He seems an intelligent sort of chap, and he can see that poorer lads were able to read about more fortunate fellows ~~without~~ "without jealousy or rancour". But he does not seem to perceive that Frank Richards had this in mind, and that his guiding principle in writing was to soothe bitter feeling, to eradicate envy, to blot out class prejudice, and to make all boys feel that, regardless of means and station, they were all British boys and much of a muchness. I do sincerely believe that I had a great deal of success in this, and that I have helped to allay much bitterness caused by the inequalities of our very imperfect social system. And if I have helped on the good cause of 'peace on earth, goodwill to men', I don't think I have been entirely useless in the world.

Mr. Brogan is kind enough to say that I answered George Orwell "with great ability". I would not go so far as that, but I do think that I

gave George a Roland for his Oliver.

I think--and certainly hope---that Brogan's "doleful head-shaking" in his last lines was, nothing more than just a bee in his bonnet. The publishers certainly did not "choose" the Magnet for Sacrifice; twenty-seven other papers were shut down at the same time---by that one firm----All over the country papers were going down like leaves in Vallombrosa. If Brogan was right, and the young people don-t want any more Frank Richards, I hope I shall be prepared to retire gracefully from the scene, grateful for popularity that lasted over so many years, and without grouching. But I shall not believe that my young friends have changed so much unless I get proof of it: and the evidence so far is in the contrary direction. I was quite staggered when I saw such a price as 1/- marked on the first Sparshott number: yet the publishers tell me that the edition went off very fast, and it is already difficult to get a copy. So for the present, at least, I shall take leave to believe that Mr. Brogan was talking out of his hat!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Frank Richards

< Charles Hamilton. >