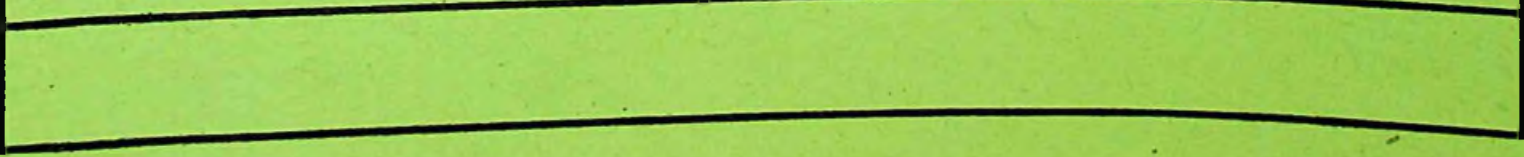


FIC/OM/COB/2#2



[2010/58]  
**FOLDER NO.5.**  
**BENNETT'S CORRESPONDENCE**  
**TO COBB.**



2  
Matter as far as ornithology & oology  
is concerned that is Birds & eggs & some  
of the fossilized remains of the former,  
apart from the business point of view  
& putting it entirely aside, I am personally  
interested in this study, & as a matter  
of fact the whole of it, business & pleasure  
is to me but a pastime which I conduct  
during my intervals of work & evenings, and  
I should be most pleased to correspond  
with you on the topic of Birds both  
British & S Atlantic species the former  
I am well acquainted with, & of the latter  
my knowledge is certainly not great, but  
the assistance I can procure here of  
eminent ornithologists with whom I am  
in touch, literature Etc is sufficient  
to identify skins, then again there are  
several Birds on the British list which

Oological &  
Ornithological  
specimens  
Aparatus Etc.

A, G, BENNETT,  
34. Harwood Terrace  
Kings Road, Fulham,  
LONDON. S, W

10<sup>th</sup> April, 1907.

Mr A. J. Cobb

Dear Sir

I noted your letter & Photos in  
the Country Side this week with much  
interest, I hope I am not in any way  
intruding on you or your time, nor am  
I actually soliciting business with  
you in the sense of the word although  
I am open to it under certain conditions  
I gather from your letter as published that  
you either want help in identification  
or disposal or both, Now I shall be  
most pleased to assist you in this

<sup>3</sup> are accidental to the British Isles  
but somewhat common your way  
for instance sooty shearwater, Gull Billed  
Tern Roseate Tern, Sooty Tern, smaller Sooty,  
Tern, Noddy Tern, I do not say positively  
that all of these breed on the Falklands  
but many are supposed to if not all,  
then again you have many of the  
Petrels, Shearwaters, Gulls, Terns  
Gullmots, Auks, Albatroids & many others  
that are as you say little known here,  
at any rate if you will write me  
on the subject, I shall be most  
pleased to reply & discuss any point  
with you & give you any information  
you require that is in my power to give  
either ornithologically or general  
Natural History

Yours Faithfully

Arthur G. Bennett,

Box Johnny Roob,  
dotterel, plover  
hen sparrow & goose  
wing sent Nov.  
mail 3/5.

Deception Island

S. Shetlands.

63° S Lat.

60½° W Long.

Bar steady.

31/1/14.

Dear Mr. F. Cobb.

Well I arrived after a very bad one. I mean Cape Horn, & well. I have had nearly enough for one dose. not an Englishman to speak to, but I am collecting have not filled the ship yet. & here is some of the daints bits I have about 16 penguin skins Ringed & Macaroni & eggs of both. skins & eggs of Wilsons Petrel, white rumped Tern skins of Henna Cape Pigeon. Silver Petrel. Adelle Penguin. about 6 new sp? of shells, thousands of crustacea many species. 2 embryos whale skulls, whale ~~ears~~ lichens & Rocks. the plum is a brown var of Ringed Penguin. am still looking for the new sp. of unnamed Penguin that is sometimes seen here. (by the way the fire bird is supposed to be a new species? ah ah)

This is an impossible place no beaches anywhere  
except in this Harbour & they are Hot ashes & the water  
full of sulphur so very little life outside  
about 20° colder & 40 fathoms in places along side of  
the rock & hundreds in other places; I have been  
down Belgica Straits (the first Englishman) & it is  
a plain too; all the so called land is ice one solid  
piece; one huge glacier broken only by pieces of Rock  
& deep channels some 1,000 fathoms deep; full of  
black water & Blue icebergs the land is nowhere  
~~less~~ than 300ft or rather the ice & in places 9,000 ft  
very beautiful to look at & that's all. too cold for words  
my own idea is that an expedition must come down  
& work these channels for they are <sup>as</sup> full of life  
as I am of whale stink, however I have eaten  
whale meat many times if you had some at dinner  
tonight & I assure you you cannot get beef as good.  
Whale meat is as superior to beef as chicken is to  
leather, ah yes I have been whale shooting too,  
but if I tell you too much I shall have nothing left  
in stock Kind Regards

Yours faithfully

W. Bennett

What is the stamp worth in quids

M.P. 391  
28.

Naturalist Department.

Stanley.

Falkland Islands.

3rd December 1928.

Sir.

I am directed to forward you the enclosed packet of *Poa flabellata* seeds.

Mr A.F. Cobb now of Worthing, England, forwarded your request for seeds.

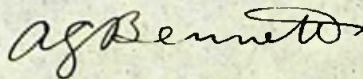
Seeds of *Cortaderia pilosa* and *Eriopetrum rubrum* will be forwarded later, when ripe seeds can be obtained.

*P. flab.* thrives in peat soil, just above the sea beach and especially so if sea-birds breed on the same spot.

I am.

Sir,

Your obedient servant



Acting Government Naturalist.

To

Mr. Olafur Fredriksson

Town Councillor

Reykjavik. Iceland.

16. Parkhurst Road,  
Holloway,  
London, N.7.

20 June 1933.

Dear Mr A. F. Cobb.

Many thanks for yours of  $\frac{4}{6}$  & book.

I suppose you have been thinking things, and, perhaps saying things, too. I have read your latest on F.D. birds with much pleasure, but, I advise you to burn, unopened, all F.D. correspondence for the next two years, for you should know that they cannot see a joke, unless it is against someone else. I fear I cannot become selling agent for the book. but I have been asked by quite a few who you are Etc Etc. I hope it goes better than my "list" went. This latter has sold about 30 copies in 7 years, not to mention that I have given 200 away & paid the postage just to get rid of them.

Yes thanks we flourish, so far, in more senses than one, at times.

Yes, brought home 2 Macaroni Penguins for Zoo as you ask, so shall ye be told :- what I have

been doing. 1931 published "Whaling in the  
Antarctic" (Blackwoods) 7/6, & still going,  
1933 pub. joint work Dr S Kemp F.R.S &  
A.G.B. paper, Distribution of whales etc.  
Discovery Report, Vol VI, Camb: University Press  
8/-, & had a passage home, Is this not enough  
in 3 years? or would you like more?

I suggest to you that "the oystercatchers  
have gone in for sun bathing!"

Now, not as much flinging, why didn't you  
extend your book by including more birds;  
what about the little ones.

And what do I owe you for the vol, please.  
Shall be in Portsmouth  $\frac{29}{7}$  to  $\frac{12}{8}$  more  
or less.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A J Bennett



Stanley  
"Sublantis Islands"  
10/January 1933

(Landed here, full of beans, 21 years  
today).

Dear Mr Bobb.

Really, I could hardly believe it true, but it was. I have put a few feelers out & this is how your book seems to stand:— As you know, Creece went out some years ago, New people, new ideas (not always for the better). No one seems to know anything of your book or what become of it (perhaps set-aside, but can't say). I suppose you know that there is a new West Store. The successor to Creece is now fired, & I believe that Creamer takes on the job. From the way of Stanley F.I. today, I should say that you don't stand the slightest chance of getting quit of your 400 surplus copies, No boats, no passengers, & the Navy "hard up" in these days. That "bird list" of mine — you had a copy, has been on sale over 6 years at an annual average sale of 2 copies D.V.

The F.I.s have reverted to slumber & "grab" & that's all there is in it.

The death of Stanley in the Zoo was most unfortunate, but a very common end

Kind regards & best wishes from us all.  
Yours sincerely  
R. J. Bennett.

Now what about the <sup>just dead</sup> whales this  
Contenary stamps if time <sup>4.3</sup> ~~4.3~~

to animals there; of course human infection  
Oh yes, Stanley <sup>4.3</sup> is improved somewhat:—  
a pavement along front road from Jubilee  
to Goat Paddock. Several roads have been  
made up & Tar sprayed = with a broom  
Some drains too & real w.c.s. here & there, some  
baths. A water supply straight from a flat  
above "Benders" sometimes it is not darker than  
rum & water, at other exactly the colour of  
molasses. Ah, & then we have electric light,  
& amongst the many improvements might be  
mentioned a little fresh air, often accompanied  
by a gentle breeze.

Thanks for the information that Scotland  
is in Aberdeen. Do you often feel like that?  
Ah, & Aberdeen saw the seasonach coming  
when they caught you for a P per gallon for  
petrol. When motoring in Scotland wear a  
Dalmoral,— they say it works well. Hamilton does.  
Now, have you read my book W.I.T.A. = whaling in the  
Antarctic, Blackwoods 1931 7/6 or any Public library  
for nowt, if not why not? Colonial office have  
published another bit of my work on whaling, as  
a paper of "Discovery Report"—Jointly with Dr Kemp F.R.S.  
Am due for leave in April 1933 & should be  
home D.V. in May. c/o Mrs Taylor 16 Parkhurst Rd  
Holloway, IV. or % Bird Room Brit Mus SKennington SW7  
ought to find me.

Stanley  
Falkland Islands

13 Oct 1929

Dear Mr Cobb.

Thanks for yours of 18/7  
Col Macklejohn D.S.O. is a  
fellow M.B.O.U. & a pal of his  
recently got the eggs he wanted  
from me

You don't seem to realise  
that a molly egg to eat is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>d</sup>  
but *Thalassogeron melanophris*  
with data is something good  
at 10/- and cheap.

What, nothing to fumble at  
these days you say? Just come  
& exist here for a bit. I am  
d - sure you won't live.

We had one idiot when I  
came here, the Horrible W.A.  
Thompson. They are beyond  
counting now. I hear that  
it is proposed to alter the  
name of F. I. to New Epsom.  
Think it out. ? in your spare  
time

Well, I don't think I can  
say more just now beyond  
wishing you all the good  
wishes for the festive season.

and a punctured tyre

Yours sincerely  
A. J. Bennett.

That Iceland chap has not  
had the decency to say "Tak"  
or whatever is the Icelandic for  
thank you

15<sup>th</sup> June 1946

Dear A. F. C.

Thanks for your enquiry to Mrs B  
re my return. I landed a week ago & have  
been too busy & too tired to reply to a stack  
of letters. I brought home a largish Noah's  
Ark. but did horribly badly on penguins,  
- too much humbug & delay. Well, if you  
want a first class shock go to Stanley. &  
they won't disappoint you. I also advise you  
to take the only ticket available, namely 1<sup>st</sup> class  
that is if you can get one. My baggage is labelled  
1<sup>st</sup> stateroom & my stateroom contained 23 men  
W Luton was one of 'em. with no place for  
baggage, nothing to sit on, or place to put ones clothes  
when undressed except the floor. The Highland  
Monarch is a troopship still. & that's the very  
modern idea of 1<sup>st</sup> stateroom. Try it & weep.

How have you been keeping, what are  
you doing? & when are you coming to Town?  
if only to pay those Lifeguards who didn't  
play me ashore,

of course the V parade quite eclipsed such a trivial thing as the second advent of Noah, and so there was but small publicity.

all the best

yours sincerely

AJ Bennett

You may not know that theres plenty of good food someeris way, but its far from cheap. Ive collected about 2 stone of it in 5 months & now start the gentle slimming process so that those very dear Italians & ferries may remain alive,

AJB

19<sup>th</sup> November 1946

Dear A.F.C.

Thank you for your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

This morn I received a letter from Weiss. Its interesting to observe that he now lives at Esbet. Until the war, I am given to understand, he lived here - within 1 mile of me, & then had such a nice long, free holiday as a guest of the King, in the S of Man.

Its the first I have heard of the Dudley Zoo, & they really seem to have "big things in their heads". for wheres the salt water coming from? not to mention at least £800, its too late I fear for this year. one wants to be there at Xmas, to do any good. & theres now almost no smallish boats, - all sunk; no tussock & no penguin eggs.

Of course Dudley is a suburb of Bournemouth: so they may get a big gate, The London Zoo will have 3000000 this year & its 2/- now, except Mondays

I hav'nt been into the 2 gardens for months instead I had such a cozy month in bed.

None of my penguins survive. but I think most of the rest is OK either at Regents Park or at Wipswade, No Doctor J. & Hamilton & Sc. lives at Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been in town but not one word from him, or has he come here

he has been her - in 29.

I hear the useless article returns to Stanley for another 3 years. My boy Harold is his clerk in the law dept. is working his job while on leave, Ag Registrar & a.P. too. This wont suit Ham I think

Now, look you, I have a special ~~exp~~ ticket for Zoo. any day at either place. (I dont need a ticket) would you like to meet me & go there. before Xmas? One can get a decent lunch there but its not cheap. They close at 4 pm now. How about it?

All the best & thanks

yours sincerely

Ag Bennett

P.S.

Quite forgot to mention that Mrs B & self were invited to visit S.S. Laponia (Ex Perth aged 30) in WJ Dock & partake of refreshments. Loaded ready for Stanley, 2000 Tons grocs. on or about 25/10. And tomorrow we plan to go Upminster (12 miles) to see Pop, otherwise a Gilchrist. He's as active as ever at 84+ In case you forget, he kept the Globe at Stanley

AgB

4  
5  
6  
10



26<sup>th</sup> June 1946

Dear A.F.C.

Thanks for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> 4.

They just won't fly penguins home for the same reason that you barred them walking down the red carpet at landing. Anyway the losses were not in transit but before starting from Stanley when some idiot exploded ammunition dumps night after night, & so put all fish going for 20 miles or so. & so I got none for 3 weeks. Incidentally, Stanley nearly went, too, it rocked pretty good, Stanley gardens are now nearly full of "Nissen Huts", there's lots more houses, far less people, & nowhere to lodge outside the "New Ship" & that's full of the Navy - it's all Navy both sober & drunk mostly the latter. Now listen to this: - paying rent in a warehouse is more or less 10 tons of anti mosquito paste - for the troops. & up the harbour - Benders way are a 1,000 or two 10 gal drums of anti mosquito liquid, now rusting away, just to choke the little blighters in the mile pond & Moody Brook etc, and Stanley is 800 miles South of the mosquito line. Who should be hanged for this, anyway you now know where some of your taxes went - & so do I.

Also on sale at Stanley April  
1946. Army surplus. New potatoes  
in 2 lb tins in liquid, 25 tins in  
a wooden case, price 1/- per  
case. & good biscuits 25 lbs in air tight  
heavy tin case - 2 tins wooden case - is  
50 lbs plus 6 of firewood, price 1/- case.  
They go to feed chickens, for maize is 27/6 bag  
Sorry to hear you feel deflated, I feel  
the same way too sometimes, Have you  
tried the local garage?

My fruit prospects are nil as far  
as apples go. Never had less than 400  
lbs with luck I might get 4 this year  
Have some gooseberries but many are  
mouldy & a few strawberries - that's  
all thank you. Any orders?

So there's no hopes of seeing you  
at the Zoo in the near future. I'm sorry.  
May I suggest that as you live so near  
the sea why not augment your meagre  
diet by fishing.

Well, keep smiling for we won the war

yours sincerely

A. Bennett

PS

Nam is now Dr. H. and he is most touchy on the point too.

after many tries & an equal number of £20s to his senate he became Dr at or near 50 years, - not bad going for a scientist? One of his papers submitted perhaps the main one was his awful thing in "Discovery report" on the great Skua - sea Hen,

For this paper he should, unquestionably, be hanged by the neck till dead. What do you think, he lumps all big skuas under one species, with vars so that the Shetland one is all one with all the southern ones, and there are many theres the big black one of S Georgia, Orkneys vs Shetlands, the little one of F.S. a bit larger at Tristan da Cunha, the big light one at S Shets & a tiny black one there too. McCormick's & Chilensis & he alone knows what there are at Kerguelen & the rest of the southern Islands & N.Z.

AGB

I know this sounds a bit lousy, but we cannot do it. We do not get enough for ourselves, and have to go out for a meal or two every week & the nearest is Romford - 13 miles by coach or Belmsford 9 miles ditto.

I've been pretty hard at it for some time getting on with a much belated & much post-ridden garden, all day in the recent very hot sun. Tuesday I had in Town 94° in the shade. Yesterday I mowed my two lawns of daisies, 2 1/2 hours, & then scrambled about gutters on ladders in anticipation of rain & to-day feel like a wooden man.

We have had a few small showers, but need much more. For the ground is parched, one cannot pull out weeds & little grows that's useful.

wishing you all the best

yours sincerely

A. J. Bennett

over

Dear A. F. G

5<sup>th</sup> June 1947

So many thanks to you for your letter of 28/5 and particularly the Penguin Book on Apples and associated bugs. By the way, bugs around this part of Essex for miles & miles thrive, I've seen trees & small orchards devoid of leaf. Bush is pleasant to read, & by far the best thing I have seen, I must look out for Common wild flower <sup>a Pelican</sup> next time in town; if its as good as apples I shall be satisfied.

Mrs B is a cook, but she utterly failed with whale. A norwegian cook does the job properly, = fried steaks with brown onions & brown gravy. & you can't beat it, but whats it like after freezing? Upland Geese after freezing is like eating a bag of shavings = or tussing ones sister - theres neither taste or smell in it.

I don't quite know what to say about the F. J. book. I, at present, favour the idea

that it would <sup>be</sup> better for us to meet & talk the business over. The big question is can a publisher take it with the paper restrictions (not in Govt. depts) will he take it? at all, for the sale might not be attractive. I must write to Geo Blackwoods, Edinburgh, who published my whaling. My departed friend Wynne-Finch arranged the publication & I hope he did not pay for it, I think not, for Darnley at the Col office offered to appraise the excessive average of publishers - if necessary - from "discovery" funds, but as far as I know this was never necessary. I met two well known publishers & had the satisfaction of telling them both a few home truths, and believe me it was like a cone on a boy it fitted where it touched - and did they get spoked, well, some. One was Nash, I lunched with him at Wynne-Finches

Q "Of course you know Bennett you can't get any money out of it; it's your first book"

A. G. B. why not,

N. "Look at the great risks a publisher runs"

A. G. B. yes, I agree, but I have yet to see a publisher dying in Denury or in Carey St.

(Carey it is the bankruptcy court.)

N. "you blasted insulting dog" (gentlemen?)

Now Edward Arnold wrote & begged me to write up modern whaling & so it went to him & he refused it, but invited me to call on him as he had something important to convey to me. I went, & this was it. "I was to take it back with me, and so greatly extend it - 'pad it out', for there was far too much good information in one short vol; when it would very nicely make two large vols, and after all people wanted reading matter, & not facts". If I did this he would be most happy to consider the first refusal but I could not expect any return in cash. I reminded him that slavery was abolished 100 years ago, told him all I had said to Nash and some more, too. To this he thought I was inclined to be personal. Such need their dome dented with a 4 lb hammer. This is the record of Nash as told to me. Left Cambridge only owned £50 & on this opened up as a publisher. Lived well for 20 years, had an elaborately furnished flat in London, & a big country seat up North. Sold the business for £40,000 = £20,000 down & later foreclosed on his victim. At this time when I met him he was getting married at Wynne-Finches beautiful house in Kensington sent off on his honeymoon & left W & F to foot the bills. W & F told me it cost him over £1,000. And publishers are honest.

I went & saw Dr Baker at Batford. Last autumn he had just retired (60) & is a very poor old man. Most of the life stories I know of F islanders are not printable. Are you aware of the very great streak of insanity there? John the rather large amount of Jew blood, too?

Miss Boyson was a scissors & paste author what else could she be.

Its exceedingly kind of you to offer me financial help & I much appreciate your kindness, but at present no. I am not mug enough work for nowt & pay out for it too anything I write must stand on its own legs and not have the confidence trick worked on it

"Ham" is far too tired to even keep himself clean, much less write books. He's on his last 3 years now & its not unlikely he won't last it out, unless he gets more energy. also unlikely. Before the war 16000 books were published per year in U.K. - far too many, & so the sales were too small for each

Stop your American blight with methylated spirit & a stiff brush.

What do you say to this. Either I will come to your town & return the same day, or you can come here and stay the night, it won't be so tiring if you are not too fit. but, and this is the big but, you must bring your food.

15<sup>th</sup> June 1947

Dear A. F. C.

Many thanks for your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup>, the paper - a most useful item, and the loan of *Foröener*. I am particularly glad to have read this first hand informative on the group. I have met one or two of the people in whaling as well as Islanders. I had always pictured the *Foröes* as a better sort of F.Ds. certainly the climate is much warmer, but what a lovely bunch of rocks, like Norway its almost all rocks. I return the book the piece of s'ply is all I have to prevent damage in the post, and again thank you.

As we are having a lovely drop of rain I take this opportunity to write owing letters, as work outside is remanded, & gladly so.

I am sincerely sorry to hear you are in such poor health. I had not suspected it, seeing that a few weeks ago you mentioned in a letter about cycling.

I invited you to stay a night fearing that one day might be too much for you, one night could mean several if necessary.

If I told you all the names you know so well that are, in the authority of an oriental scholar who visited Stanley, <sup>Jews</sup> you would get a shock, but none now practice jury, and may themselves not know it. Some of the older generations, were very clear.

The insanity = idiots = is a terrible spectacle, for there may not be one long standing family who does not regularly reproduce its quota of idiots, today much of it shows itself, in the apparently sane members of families in excessive boozing - then they go quite mad, loose morals & prostitution in the females and a large number whose feet are excessively small and turn the toes in, pigeon fashion. This is said to be due to riding when young, rubbish, review the family & count up the lunies, its a well known indication. Any two apparently sane people marrying and each family background containing one or more idiots should, following the laws of



Mendal, reproduce only idiots & they do to a greater or lesser extent,

Exactly what I had in mind to discuss with you was the following:- I have not the slightest intention to be rude or greedy, I am trying to make myself clear to you in as few words as necessary, and without varnish,

would you care to entertain the idea of uniting your 7 chapters of camp life with what I have already written & shortly expect to extend & retype providing there is a likely market for the finished article, But I wish to make it quite clear that I am not going to perform such a labour & then pay a publisher (here the dustman) handsomely to cart the rubbish away, for why pay a lot of good money away at all, when the labour need never have been done, and the experience & brains never brought out of the cupboard.

This is where the publisher batters on his victims, In my before stated interview with Edward Arnold he thought I should get a great kick out of seeing my name in print, to this I replied that he was at least 35 years late, His next dodge was "look at the honour" I answered that honour did not feed or cloth one.

Of course you might intend to plow your own furrow, even yet, in that case I beg to withdraw graciously, Should you agree of course you will allow me to accept or decline your m.s.s etc after perusal, I do hope you will soon feel better, for you live in sea air, a thing I miss very much after living in the dockyard house - once the Cottage Home, the last 5 years.

all good wishes

Yours sincerely

A G Bennett

I should have mentioned that the photos in the Faroes resemble closely the volcanic bumps in the lower icefree hills of the Antarctic

A G B

24<sup>th</sup> June 1947

Dear A. F. C.

Thank you for letter & paper on the  
Fls. of 206. I return it with more thanks.  
Its far and away the best I have read on  
the islands, and to think this was written  
by a gerry, of all people.

This paper (part of a large Vol?) is undated  
& unpublished - in other words an orphan.

Schulz was in the F. D. 1887-89 - by the Test.  
Hes wrong in places. "Thunderstorms unknown"?

His scientific names are of an ancient vintage,  
Have you ever seen a lizard there?? I hav'nt.

He says *Senecio candicans* is a big bush with  
white flowers, This is the sand cabbage & all  
*Senecio* in Fls. are yellow. I know 3 of 'em.

His Tussock grass is all bosh.

Tussock did once grow well in the Bot Gdns  
Edinburgh under my advice, It took too much  
manure to keep it going, & so this brings  
one to the real fact: Tussock must have

seal & penguin on which to thrive, be  
near the sea & a very equitable climate  
& volcanic soil.

He also states that on the sides of Mt Usborn  
limestone & slate fit for roofing exist, have

you seen this, or was it like a lot of peat  
cutting, well down in a bottle of whisky?

was Schulz a photographer for a living?

or was he just another german mystery?

I suspect Schulz has got mixed up  
between Senecio which is nothing like a  
bush and Tachima whose flowers are white.

Evidently he was never on Fox Led Spring Point.

I do like his blue bottle see "Selembria" in 1887.

"The colonists have not yet got up a testimonial  
in return for this benificent action" Pest.

He was'nt there long enough to see the results

so far I have not approached Blackwoods,

paper for printing seems the trouble, and

what a hideous cost books are now even

2nd hand

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Bonnett

P.S. For heavens sake don't send paper plates along  
but prints, apt

7th July 47

dear A.F.C.

I regret I dated my last yd when it should have been the 3rd. It was thus. Mr B sits & reads? and at the same time listens to the radio, The announcer said 7th July - something, and it was not till after I had posted that I thought of what I had done.

I have now gone through your m.s.s. carefully for the 2nd time, and here are some questions:-

- (1) you use Tussac - the F.I. pronunciation I use Tussock for it certainly is a tussock.
- (2) On Bleaker where the Rockies nest is said to be quartzite - ie white rock, is this so, I have only met them on quartzite - impervious, & soon a quagmire
- (3) Old toleman was still alive (and boozing) last year
- (4) Have you seen the ticks bugging up Jackson's ears - the only safe spot: are they the same as on sheep? if so a tussock point is a bad place for lambs, - these ticks are blue-black
- (5) where did you see blue butterflies in F.I. on what sort of camp? Have you now got any? I believe them unknown.
- (6) The 2 butterflies at F.I. is the small coppery fritillary (rare at Stanley for there is no violets around on which plant the larvae probably feed) And the world-wide Painted Lady = bardus, larvae lives on thistle, & its a great migrant, I only saw 2 - both from Darwin, dead, Bahia Blanca was full of them in December 27.
- (7) Can you please tell me the name - full - of that woman who wrote the F.I. books, & publishes, The colony paid for its publication by J. Middleton I've read the book, but forget all about it
- (8) Have you an admirably chart of E. Falklands? or the bit with Bleaker on it. It would be helpful to have a map of Bleaker, islets, & Naushill, drawn to scale in Indian ink

I fancy her name was Boyson.

9th July. Your letter of 8th arrived after I left at 6am on a pilgrimage to see the Helpers shooting at Bisley, have just got back each foot weighing 5 cwt at least. so shall not write much tonight, I saw T. Braxton. Mr & Mrs Bill Grierson from S. Georgia - he's Customs there, while, Mrs G was Irene Hardy (Arthur H's girl) & Mr & Mrs Pop Altridge, He is now Captain in the F.I. mounted marines & Capt Bob Seay, you would

These cases, perhaps 100 of them were among the finest specimens  
of Taxidermy art extant. I loved them from my boyhood, the birds & mammals  
occupied a woman more than 20 years, they will never be replaced, there is not the  
people now alive to do it.

remembers him as the Port Boy, the youngest  
son of old Joe. Mrs A is one of Alec Bonners  
very good looking girls, she is shooting with the men  
and can shoot too, scored 33 & 32 in two stages of the  
Kings prize while I was there. The possible in both cases was 35  
Thank you for the terms you have accepted, if, when,  
& how Life in the Falkland Islands ever gets into print,  
you shall read it all - in parts as typed.

I never discovered where Hagenbachs got their Emperor from  
they offered it to the London Zoo for some thousands, but it  
snuffed it too soon, It was within the last 20 years, so, that  
Dr Bruce was out of it, The 2 on Pebble are since 1930  
Poole was a dead man years before.

Nat. Hist Mus, S. Ken. Early on, five bombs fell on the  
top floor & set light to the Botanical Dept. The brigade  
washed the fire out. & incidentally enough water was sent  
up to more or less destroy a lot in the next two floors  
namely Mineralogy & below this the fossil floor.  
All valuable specimens had been scattered over the  
country previously. Much went to Tring, which Rothschild  
willed to the Nation, & is the country holiday spot of the  
Brit. Mus staff. No damage here.

Near the end of the war a doodle bug - flying bomb,  
or a rocket dropped in the road, opposite the middle of  
the bird gallery, 4 or 5 big houses disappeared, Every window  
in the front of that, the west wing, vanished. Those very  
robust stone pillars & ditto railings are not there. In the  
bird gallery no glass remained, All those beautiful bronze  
cases - on tables - the nesting of every Brit. breeding bird  
excepting perhaps a dozen or so was just twisted up like wire  
Stacked down the centre was hundreds of cabinets, piled up,  
of Mollusca. I don't know what happened to them, I have  
not been upstairs to the Mammals & Men or downstairs  
to the insects because they are closed. A bit of the ground  
floor is open to the public, and all the back part is students  
Only the front was damaged, but not much to the structure.

10th July

I don't know what to do with the feathers of upland  
Gander. Looks like possible Hermaphroditism or partial so.  
Did I tell you that Bert Ratcliffe gave me two Upland  
geese - nest sisters, one normal, the other creamy white  
Both are now in whipnade. Do you want the feathers  
back, or shall I offer them to the bird room S. Ken, which  
is intact  
would you like me to wade through the notes you  
mention & cull any that seem useful to write up?  
ie, in diaries.

I think most people in F.I.s would be delighted to see  
themselves in print = photos.

I feel today rather like a wooden man, after yesterday's 3½ hours tramping round at Bisley, looking for helpers, mostly in thunder storms - 5 of them in succession. Now it rains & so I am unable to get on with the outside work, now so necessary, when I have completed this task, now mostly painting, I will get busy with the typewriter, for I, like others, cannot do any work done.

That photo of Rocky eggs. A friend in Anglesear might like to have it, and he might even buy it. I could send it to him on approval.

I haven't seen a photo of an albino penguin although I did get an albino gentoo, it went to the Stanley Mus. with a lot of other skins, then home to be mounted, and was "pinched", while the taxidermist bolted to Australia.

Talking to Mrs Aldridge (nee Bonner) yesterday. I tackled her on the Rocky rookery at Bleaker, was the stone white like around Stanley. No said she it is hard shining black. This is question (2) on page one of this letter. Do you agree.

In the margin of your M.S. are numbers in pencil not related to words, or seemingly to paragraphs so I concluded they were your numbers relating to photos & they counted up to 317. What else could I surmise? sorry and all that.

I can't imagine Poole being floored by King's which weigh 30-50 lbs, but it could be likely with emperors that weigh 90 lbs. Yet the difference in bulk is not so evident as one would expect from the difference in weight.

Why didn't you make a skin of that copy-breasted upland gander.

Oh, by the way, the Americans call *Larus dominicanus* Hump Gull. I think this to be a very good & appropriate name, what do you say? It must have cost you something to get your typing done.

Did I, in a previous letter mention Schuly as saying *Senecio candicans* as bearing white flowers. This is the sand cabbage, & has yellow flowers. I suggest he means *Fachina*.

You say sailors believe that Gulls are the wandering souls of drowned sailors, this is funny, because Norwegian sailors devoutly believe the same of Petrels. Their term is "lost skipper souls", implying of course that skippers are such rascals that there is not even a place for them in Hell, & so they must aimlessly wander over the sea for ever. I was very disliked for skinning petrels on board - by many of them.

where and oh where did you "unbottle" *Falco inguiceps*  
= a small Red Hawk, or perhaps you dug it out of a  
peat bank? The name does not even stand in  
the S American handlist, do you mean *therachneis*  
(9) *cinnamomina* = the cinnamon Kestrel = a small  
reddish or orangish bird with a long tail

If you are not tired after reading this you ought  
to be, for its taken some time to write.

I hope you are feeling better again, and I am  
wondering if you feel equal to another day at  
the Zoo? If you like you can send along  
the photos you propose to use. I will return anything  
you wish.

Yours sincerely

A. G. Bennett

P.S.

Relative to getting any work done, heres a case.  
I have a back window that had 5 ft of bottom  
framing absolutely rotted away, could I get wood?  
not at all. So I found two telephone poles rotted off  
at "tide" mark lying in what will some day be a  
road - theres houses in it. I wrote the P.O. & they sold  
me the remaining 16 feet each of 2 poles. at 300% above  
pre war values. So I cut 10 ft of the tip off in situ for  
clothes posts & planted them in concrete. Then the butts  
I carried home, cut off the unsound ends, leaving 5'6"  
of solid spruce 6 1/2" in diameter. ~~From~~ From one of these  
I cut, with a small toothed hand saw, for I hav'nt got  
& can't get a rip or 1/2 rip, a plank 6x2. Next trimmed  
& planed my plank to 4x2 & fitted it into my  
window frame. Well, it took a long time & was a job  
of hard "graft" but its a sound job now.

A.G.B.

Dear A.F.C.

4<sup>th</sup> July <sup>read on 4<sup>th</sup></sup> 1947.

Thanks, indeed, for your R packet of 28/6/47 & contents, It arrived on the 20<sup>th</sup> - my day in Town and have been forecced with garden work since for atera long hot spell without rain in which there was little growth. Then came deluges of hot rain, now you can stand & see things grow, The rain has spoiled all my little apples - made big uns of 'em! Thanks, too for the book of stamps they will be most useful, I hope I did not convey to you the idea of being "hard up" because I am not. This is the position:- costs are mounting daily but not ones pension so I can't be reckless with money. I am forced to weigh up costs of things, & try the cheapest means of travel, just to keep out of barey St W.C.2.

I hope you have recovered by now, anyway, before going further with this epistle, you should dig out and drink a couple of bottles of that fine war Martelo in your cellar. Well, you ask for my absolutely unvarnished thoughts on your efforts, believe me I shall not disappoint you, but it won't be awful, I have read through the whole lot - in bits, and here are my impressions.

There is a lot of good stuff in it, there is much that I, too, have said - not always in the same strain.

You have pointed out the chief faults of the article, namely its too vague to people outside the F.I.s. I have read it with pleasure & full understanding but then I am a semi-helper Englishman, while I assume you to be a semi English helper, Of course you won't take offence at this statement, chapters 2-7 & bits of 1 could be rewritten to make things clear to others, = i.e. non sheep people & non Islanders. I propose to reread & study the whole thing. I hav'nt seen my own since I came home It's in the cupboard under bookshelf, you seem to have about 32000 words by your figures, but surely you didn't intend to include 317 photos, did you?

Now, will a publisher today take a risk on a book that will not have a vast sale, can he get the paper?



I propose to start rewriting my own a bit later  
in the year & perhaps retype yours so as to  
make it fit in. your 2 bird chapters could be  
tun in with my own, and ditto with the introduction  
Now, this is it, plain talking, what do you suggest  
about (1) Joint authorship. (2) My authorship with  
full acknowledgment of your part or parts.

Should it ever be published & suppose it did give  
some cash return above the necessary outlay,  
where, & on what terms do you suggest as being  
a fair & square deal. - to yourself.

I am horribly disappointed & my son Harold  
does not now come on leave until next February  
He is J.P. now. I particularly want here here now  
so that he could sentence you to some horrible  
form of punishment, & suitable torture for  
your failure to recognize an Emperor Penguin  
when you - just one of a dozen men - is all that  
has seen this bird alive, you say purple neck  
the King is not purple but gold. Had you have  
succeeded in keeping this fellow alive & brought  
him home you would have been £2000 richer,  
one only has come to Europe, & he soon died  
at Hagenbachs. I have snaps of 2 on Peble Id  
they too called it King & one came up in Tierra del  
some years ago. - the late P.V. Reynolds in His

As a last hope I could offer it in the U.S.A. & they  
are more likely to publish if only as a serial in  
the National Geo Mag. in this case plenty & very  
good photos would be needed. I havint many  
of Stanley & very few indeed of the camp. How do you stand?

Its your turn next.

yours sincerely  
A J Bennett

→ and the text cut to the bone

Dear A. F. C.

28<sup>th</sup> July 1947

Thanks for letter, photos, papers. They shall come back. The sole reason that I have started this letter now is that it's too hot, even for a heat lover like me, to work outside. It must be around 90° - it's certainly hotter than 108° (in the shade) in

Monte: last year. That freak of memory - it's 7<sup>th</sup> for 2/7 often happens to me if I make an error, it's no effort - it just bobs up.

(1) Tussocks. I stick to for the grass grows in tussocks. I fancy that Tussock is just a & I corruption as are so many words used there

(2) Rock-hoppers. As before stated I have only met them on quartzite & therefore in a quartzite. I have often wondered if there was an outlier of quartzite on blanket - there could be - if there was how did Rockys find it? - the only nesting spot of this bird not on, or very near, the N or W coast of I.S., Photos won't tell me the spot but only the shape of rocks

Every Jackson I have handled on Kidney Ste & that is many all had its ear bunged up with blue-black ticks, the poor bird couldn't scratch them off - they were inside.

I heard about Blues in I.S. but never pinned down anyone who had seen them. Various vegetables are the usual food of many blue larvae & they are very constant. I must think & look up in the B.M. next time these as to what they know.

Thanks, don't trouble over the Boyson or Spottalberg books. I did read them & forget all about them. Anyway I don't intend to pinch other people's thunder by means of mirrors & paste

Perhaps you will lend me that old ad: chart of I.S. and be sure to pencil in the names of the islets & reefs as you know them.

Yes, you have caught me. Inguiceps was Bhabha's name & he later helped to compile Herts-Swain's - later printed as Lord Prabant & Bhabha's hand list of the birds of America. In that there is no inguiceps. Funny, when writing it to you it seemed so familiar - but 40 years is a long time

If you are going to murder white butterflies you have a job for life uselessly employed.

The Pop Aldridges are stanley not S. Georgia. - A Flaret is there. Pop is asst bot Secy. The A Bonners ~~was~~ were in England during the war. A B then was a foreman in a lipstick & nail dye factory out New Cross way, took him 2 hours each way daily. Now he is at a large motor garage near his home, what he does I don't know at the outbreak of war Mr B took Fairport O Sullivan's boy back to S. Georgia & got stuck there. F O's was Customs then at S. Geo: Its astounding how the crooks get responsible jobs Stanley way. Another pet is Dommy now Police & was Lieutenant during the war, so, too, was Carl Horse Browning, Markie Luxton & Buff Harris, and these plus their wives went to a Gort House Ball while I was there. Shades of Billy allardjee.

never heard a word of Jason Hansens!

we have had no rain for over 7 weeks & I havint had a cabbage yet since I ate those that stood the winter in June. Peas & beans are dried up strings & being burnt.

The Brit Mus will have the goose (upland ♂+♀) feathers & so I will take them next trip. Tuesday called on Discovery (office) for a chart (on loan) of E Falklands, couldn't find one then, but I did "scrounge" a bottle of indian ink. Chart next time. (Monday).

You did not answer my question of some weeks ago.

"Do you feel equal to another day at the Zoo?"

They have lost 14 Kings - 10 left - died of myxosis & enteritus.

yours sincerely

A. J. Bennett

Dear A. F. C.

17th Aug 1947

Thank you for letter of 15th. Do you want the diary back & ditto photo of Rocky eggs? We can be quite ruthless with each others goods, but when it comes to our own there is often a lot of sloppy sentiment attached to our treasures. Yes it has been quite warm - just as I like it - in the 90s today. All last week, except Thursday - I was painting windows & doors in the full sunshine. Thursday we went to Town (to get something to eat) went down to Hammersmith & then went on to Sudbury (tube) Middlesex to see Mr & Mrs Pop Aldridge. - They won 2 cups - the Junior Kolapore & the Mackinnon plus some small prizes Mrs A was 2nd in the 1000 yards & was only short of 1 point to get into the 2nd round of the Kings, Saw Mr & Mrs Alice Bonner both petty & full of go. He's working, looks 55, nimble, & is 75. Its a pity about the chest. I must ask Discovery for the loan of one. I worried Dr Riley, Entomologist, at B.M. They know nothing of a Blue butterfly in the E. Is. He says its a myth.

There is not much in Billericay for its much the same today as the Pilgrim Fathers left it in about 1607. I took 4 -  $\frac{1}{4}$  plates for one print each - they go away from the local chemists shops for printing - cost 6 each - pay in advance. But a large photo firm in Holloway - N. London, did some fine work for me in 1941 after that they could do no more, They were not dead.

As Boots have great stocks of photo materials probably this N London firm is in full swing again. So if you want something done send it along & I will do my best. They made really wonderful negatives - paper ones. from prints & then enlarged them - and most excellent prints, quickly too. I think they did 70 prints in 3 days

I don't know what to say about the egg print,  
it's not good enough to offer for sale, probably  
my friend in Anglesca - Hewitt might accept it.

My advice about your stuff is Scrap. all poor negatives unless  
a rarity, in this case. Give them intensified, <sup>first</sup> I did this with  
my own before leaving the St. and I know it looks, otherwise  
it's just lumber cluttering up some cupboard.

I am now teaching ramblers roses & scrapping borrow loads  
of worn out plants, you should see "my smoke" as  
campers over in F. L.

all the best

Yours sincerely

A G Bennett.

MALVINA  
STONE ROAD  
BILTON  
29th August 1947

Dear A. F. C.

Thank you for letter & photos of the 25th. I return diary, & prints. of the latter I have selected 15 (in a bundle.) they are all good photos & could be printed well on some of the many grades of gaslight. why not present a copy of each of the birds & seals to the Zoological Society of London or/and the British Museum. you would then know they would be of use to someone at some time.

I consider the post clip - that wrecked the old Cathedral to be of most value - but only to the Falklands, wasn't it 1887. I saw a print in Stanley, but who had it? The prints of the private of Stanley & his tug are no longer. what schooner is it on the beach? I have put pencil notes on the backs of some. 2 prints of 2 eggs on kelp, what are they? see on back of schooner. Osborn at the wheel. who is the cook?

I said to you before that Boote at Hammsmith had a window full of photo supplies plates, cat films, cine-films, papers of all grades & speeds. but I did not notice roll films.

Tell me what you want & I will see what I can do next time in Hammsmith. Ever since my last letter I have been cutting down, uprooting & burning some 30 borrow-piled up - loads, & we don't annoy our neighbours.

Now, I am ashamed that you should have let yourself down so badly over butterflies. Don't you know that countless millions cross the Channel & North Sea every year from May to September. Many cannot survive our winters & so come as far as algeria & Norway, some to breed once, perhaps twice, & then wiped out. The whites - the large & small cabbage white - not the black veined & the green veined or orange tips - are a pest. Now, butterflies can't eat, most drink nectar, & some cannot even do that. it's their caterpillars who do the eating

The name changing of birds is awful, but its worse in Botany & Entomology, I could enlarge on this subject, loose my temper, & say nasty things about such people as the late Stuart-Baker the Australian dingo Gregory Mathews, & his satellite Bryan Roberts but I won't waste paper.

Rob Blake's grass Hawk was, no doubt, the Green Parrot of Tidel Fuego in summer. - it is a grass feeder I believe, & I always expected it over - its bright green, red bill. Was it shot as vermin?

By the way, did you ever hear of a Pair of Chilean Eagle breeding in Bad Valley Pt Stephens. They did according to M Dean. & did you hear of a pair of Condor breeding on Saunders? they may be there yet. at times there were 3 = the tall peak on the W end.?

Southern Black-backed Gull is such a mouthful. I much like Kelp Gull. I might get your Rocky egg photo published in the IBis failing which the before mentioned person might be glad of it. Bryan Roberts, like lots of his kind, is first class at at least in one thing - Brain sucking. I've had much to do with him.

The Bisby team consisted of W Grierson, late printer now Customs S.G. Tom Perretton, Joe King, who backed out. Captain (Pop) Aldridge & wife (Donner) so M<sup>r</sup>a filled the gap. My son Harold was to have done so but he sails next February.

They won the Junior Kolapore Cup against Tangarika what else I don't know. One of them was heard to say "It was like old times to have Old big feet amongst them!" If you don't know, this is my Kelper Christian name.

Urwin's contract is a real gem, just you look at the risks he runs? where are they? Its an Agency only You pay all outgoings & we take the profits.

Yours sincerely

AJ Bennett

19<sup>th</sup> October 1947

Dear A. F. C.

Glad to get your L.C. of 16<sup>th</sup>. Now Turyford in Hants is a new one on me, maybe Waterson lives there. I do know of a Turyford (on Thames) Berks & of an Iford in Hants.

I haven't been to my people, Jeromes of Holloway Rd N. London, for years now, so don't know their charges to-day. Your charges sound the same as Boots at Hammersmith. I suppose one has to pay purchase tax on the stuff.

No. I did not keep a list of the possibles, I tied them separately for you to keep apart.

What I said about my apples was a good crop due to much spraying, those around here that did not spray had no fruit or leaves

Final weights for 2 big bush trees is 957 lbs picked plus falls - roughly 3500 apples.

Have just discovered I have a copy of Billy As. Story of the F. Is - tied up in a bundle of small publications, It's not much to "gas" about.

I think he got into hot water with the Col. off. over it, didn't he?

Your letter arrived here <sup>4</sup>Friday noon. I went to London. (Bus) at 9 am. & so missed your query re prints by 3 hours. I passed within 80 yards of Jeromes & could have enquired of them.

Did'nt you, once upon a time, tell me that



Mrs M. Buckworth had the last W.F. fox known, as a tame pet, in a dog collar, & gave it to the London Zoo, about 1886 or 7. ? If you didn't then someone else did. Anyway there is no record of it at the Zoo. In all they had 4, the last in 1870.

The last fox = (dog) = In fact all 5 American foxes are dogs within the meaning of the Act, = was killed at Hitzroy by Joe Aldridges dogs in 1893. Two skins & 3 skulls only are known, all in the BMus.

It is presumed there was 2 species, this will now never be proved.

I asked Joe for any bits & pieces for the Stanley Mus, but he had none left for many years.

The ? is from whence did it come. Did Fuegians bring it, the "fox" continuing to exist while man perished without a trace, perhaps due to absence of trees for canoe bark & of Right whales for the baleen = bone = of which was used to saw the bark together. Why did the "fox" never reach any of the near islands, & never went beyond, one E. & the other W.F. Fox Isd Spring Point seems to have been the one exception.

A while ago I made four or five trips to Town, finally I secured & returned it to "Discovery Investigations" office in Westminster. I draw Bleaker + .5 & here it is. You can put anything you like on it - in pencil only please.

The three sheets: that I have retyped & emended I enclose for your perusal. Comments on separate paper please with marginal pencil numbers on the

for a B.F. chart,

the original for reference to your improvements  
if any, This is the under copy.

I shall look forward to your views, after one hour's  
reading. 6200 words takes about 56 minutes to speak  
on the B.B.C. And so over to you

Should you decide to fling rocks, bricks or rubbish  
at me please advise me in advance the quantity  
you are firing off

all the best

Yours sincerely

A G Bennett

Dear A.F.C.

2nd November 1947

Thanks for letter of 26/10/47, books, papers, pamphlets & all the sundries. Latest news from Stanley is that they are enjoying a bout of German measles. V Bigger = 82 is pretty bad, ditto Johnnie Summers 80. I hear here that he passed out. I've done no more typing yet because I have so much to do in the garden & apple selling.

No, if it wasn't you I can't now say who told me of Mr Buckworth's fox, I believe the fox specimens in the BM are all that are known. Mr B's fox did not go to the Zoo. Have read with pleasure your father's account of what the F.S.C. did for the F.S. boiled down to common sense the position of the F.S.C. is one of trade & not philanthropy.

I have no axe to grind for them, & I have nothing whatever against them personally. My official business with them was of the best - far better than with the asses fry, still from a public point of view they have far too much power to-day, especially where all means of communication is in their hands.

I believe that Pt Stephens, Foxe Bay Is, Spring Point Perhaps Saunders, Weddell & Beaver Isds are in their hands now, while others are tottering in the same direction, Mr Young once informed me that he could do the Governor's job too, I replied that one East India Co & one South African Co was enough to satisfy the world, I hadn't then seen Schulz's paper, He never opened the idea again to me, & we were quite friendly.

There has been nothing happen to the F.S. climate its always been like it, but its only the British who have conquered it - now take long draughts of that, you are quite right it - the climate - is depressing & most people there are depressed and may not know it.

I am under the impression that Lofonia being away from the mountains is better than Stanley certainly the W side of W.F. is & its people far more happy, I mean re pack ice & bergs that they are far to the South, but it puts the chill in SW winds.

I think it was Big Bushy who showed me the photo of the hail stones at F Bay. The apple probably came from Valdivia in those days.

Thanks for your remarks on the 3 chaps, we are bound to disagree on some things. anent this. one under Secretary in the Colonial office once said to me that if two men agreed on every subject

discussed, one of them was a B... fool. I disagreed with him just before & he thanked me for doing so.

Now don't blame the machine for bad spelling its the man in front of it who is the culprit

I bought the typewriter now just before the war it sometimes sticks at a r o & I can't find out why

Hush, most of my typing & letter writing is done in the same room as the wireless howls for Mrs B's amusement. its screaming now, a comedian, & has been doing so for the last two hours, or more.

yes please mark errors - in pencil.

yes, I know of the forest at Hill Cove, and I once walked 10 minutes or so to see it. I am sure I beat a Billingsgate porter in language.

The semi fossil wood at West Point is drift wood - washed up ages ago, since which time the land has risen a little, as in so many places. why it hasnt rotted away is that it is soaked with arsenic. big lumps of arsenical pyrites lay on the shore in front. & in the wood knots are of the same mineral. The Tolton family & other residents on the island had wonderful pink complexions & glossy hair. while on the island but quickly went - old hags after a month or two elsewhere. The sheep too were extra fat, ditto cattle, all due to arsenic in water and/or in the meat. perhaps both. Maybe in the vegetation too.

3rd.

Yours sincerely  
A G Bennett

I always suspected valentins as being a poor specimen and I am right. His notes contain lots of errors, His scientific names are his own I think, I've never seen many of them elsewhere. I have a copy of Hobley.

I think you have had 14 prints newly made?

Who are the 7 members of the group. No 2 from the left is probably Henry Waldron as a younger man. the rest I don't know. The church in the post slip was then not a cathedral but St Mary's Church? The Town Hall is V.S.

The stampy book is interesting, have you a collection?

agb

10<sup>th</sup> Nov 1947

Dear A.F.S.

I feel very ashamed of myself. I wrote you a week ago on the attached two sheets, put them carefully in your bundle of the 26/10 & forgot them. The days are now so short. I have much to do & I have made several trips to town & I am going tomorrow & may be more days shortly. P.B.C. is one of my worries, and that worry is a pile of forms to fill in from the Post office. it's a means test and all because they have increased their pension to me by ONE PENNY per day. Can you beat it? with a man shortage & paper, too.

yours of 2.11. & a packet of just printed photos (23) they are good - v.g. The photo of V.E.C. on wind Post could easily be A.F.S. from the shape - I have seen it blow in Stanley when you would not climb this ladder. The Veronica is v.g. Have you seen it and Tachina on Fox Isd Spring Point? you can ride under them. There are several ways of dealing with a broken negative, one is to float the film into another glass. another is to print it at the end of a long box.

yours of 6/11 = my MSS, map. The admiralty were surveying water - sea water, not the land. Possibly gulches in the N part of Bleaker have eroded much in 80 or 90 years & so got deeper. Why can't thin negatives be intensified now? age does not matter, it's the silver that counts & that don't go away. = too much trouble most likely. Kryptonium was good. & so was iodide of Hg. The photos in this lot are also v.g.

Geo Hansen & Allen are looking somewhat old now 1946.

I have not the slightest bad feeling to Kelpers or the V's, quite to the contrary, I nurse no spitefulness except towards a few low minded officials, specimens of this type have been all too numerous in Stanley. Most of what I have written was so written in Stanley starting in 1931 & was written in the atmosphere.

Remember too that much of my duty there was in extreme exposure to the elements, & after all I am giving my truthful experiences, just as people 100 - 150 years before me did. The barometer, I have one & it hangs here in the hall - did tell me nothing for I studied it, I am surprised that you fail to see the joke = Automatic movement. I regret you feel so sore on the subject. I can see nothing to feel sore about

Yours sincerely  
A.G. Bennett

I will duly return your papers, books, photos after I have found time to do them real justice & this cannot be done in a rush. aff

Have most of the digging done, the hedge topped & burnt  
Still have porcupine & tar oil spraying to do,

15<sup>th</sup> December 1947

Dear A.F.C.

Thank you for yours of 1+14/12/47. I've had a hectic time lately just rushing about & so I have got behind in everything including Mail. I am not sure if you can hear the short waves - 25 and 45 m, that is what they were, in this country. If you have a short wave set, I haont, do try on Sundays 5 pm Stanley, that is 1 pm <sup>London</sup> ~~Stanley~~ & 2 pm <sup>their</sup> Summer time. They broadcast on 80 m. Heard over Patagonia & said to have been heard in Scotland. I spoke over it several times, for I have a good voice - so they say. It's the totterest I ever heard, Have you yet heard your own? if not, don't. I am not quite sure of frequency of London Bridge, but you could write Miss Kelham, Victoria League, 38 Cheekam Place S.W.1. (To promote Empire friendship.) Perhaps a rest home for the destitute rich. I believe Miss Kelham broadcasts to a number of colonies in the month. It's looked forward to in Stanley she holds an annual reunion for the Helpers here, & on leave.

Your photo of Kelp Gull nest is a wonderful picture

not the nest, but the Kelp boys. Re string of eggs. I do know how lamp glasses are carried in camp. with neck wrap through them. Well, Well. of all things, just fancy a Cobb becoming a relative of Weddell Iod's prize Ram.

I get a very small amount of Woolly aphis, white wool, this I dab, at once, with spirit. but my wharts, may be that, I don't know. Some clusters are 2 inches across. My neighbour has lots of it, & he don't know. My apple trees were here before me & are 20-25 years B of Bath is not much. but it gives very early fruit. I fear I have pruned too drastically in the past, because the Cox = 2 & B of B = 2 did give good crops to start with except one of the B of B's. The Cox's are  $\frac{1}{2}$  standards the rest bush, thank you for all your good advice on the subject. Chap VI is in the press. Better await after Xmas.

I am fearing you will throw your beach boulder at me, but its a bit far, so why not come nearer. say "Soufend" for I believe there is still a few handfuls of mud at low water, besides its softer than rocks.

Well, in case I don't write before. I wish you & yours all the good wishes associated with Christmas & Hogmanay. which implies a stomach full in these days.

Yours sincerely A.G. Bennett

30th December 1947.

Dear A. F. C.

Thank you very much for your letter, Boots, & balander of yesterday. As you didn't write I thought you might be down to it. At last I have heard from Capt Hewitt, to whom I offered, gratis your photo of Rocky eggs. He says he doesn't want the eggs. I have now told him that he is offered the print & there are no eggs.

My 809 chops are almost finished & they will come along to you, I hope, shortly, so get your guns & ammunition ready. I have already given you the choice of Brighton rocks or Southend mud. I hope you have read "A dirty Trick" but I implore you not to imitate him - you should know its famous Chinese author - Hoo flung Dunge.

I carefully put your mss out of the way after reading it twice, that was months ago. So I am not guilty of "Pinching of your Thunder".

With your consent I propose to tackle your next. I suggest that parts need deleting - where there is duplication. & parts want transposing - ie re-planting.

Then I have more chap:s on Mulkis, Birds & wild life to add at the final after the text has been placed.

Strange, "Uo" is a book on snobs, so, too, you will find a 915 on the same subject. I regret not in pictures by the way. Peter Scott's drawing of Pont is wonderful. The American 'Bus Depot on p 57 is my selection, but all are good if you look at them long enough.

It's snowing here & the ground is white & it's nippy. Have got all the pruning done & rubbish burnt-up. I prayed today would let me tar oil spray, for tomorrow is in town & Thursday out, too, when spraying is finished. I have a little digging to do & that will end the winter's work.

I've been taking cod liver oil in malt, it's good & does good. I see you can get Malt & Halibut oil, too. Recently received a tin of fat from Stanley. Now we fry fish & chips in it. The worms no longer bite, & we feel satisfied after a meal.

Yours sincerely  
Arthur. H. Dennis



MALVINA,  
STOCK ROAD,  
BILLETCAY,  
ESSEX.

4th Jan 1948.

Dear A. F. C.

Perhaps with some trepidation I now enclose Chaps 1-9. You have already seen 1-3 but I have since half soled & heeled them. ~~Chap 9~~ Chap 9. will most likely be much shortened & may, eventually, form part of 8. for this reason. I am no longer bound to ask permission to publish as when on active service, but the Col: office treated me generously as compared with the Post office & the then Gov: so I feel bound to submit my Chaps to them and ask if there is anything objectionable to them. In actual fact Chap 9 is written for them to digest & I trust it will do some good even if much of it does not get in print.

I have toned it down considerably since I wrote it in Stanley before 1938. The importance & snobbery of Govs: mostly of the penny tin Soldier type may be unknown to Whitehall. Anyway, after all what is a Gov but a grandiose edition of a village constable, sadly failing in his duty, in most cases. Why should people have to pay so highly for what - nothing generally but to provide an alms house for some senile incompetent who has blotted his copybook elsewhere, & who frequently squanders the Colony's money in providing himself with yachts & cars - even a flunkey & chauffeur at the Public expense, & so nicely camouflaged,

The composition of the Horrible  
Councils, is purely a means of  
providing a hide out for puny Hillers  
who might want to say "Please Sir it wasn't me,  
& what of the jelly spined poor specimen who  
foam the Councils. Few have the guts of a worm.

Please say absolutely without fear, favour, or  
affection the taste this, my part, = Chaps 1-9 leaves  
on your tongue. I would also ask you kindly to  
mark with pencil any errors you spot.

If you agree I will make a start on yours next.  
I think I have already told you I have much to  
follow, consisting of all I could find of the Nat: Hist:  
& Hulks of the Colony.

Even presuming that you may disagree with  
much I have said. I hope you will agree that  
I neither had my eyes shut to conditions, or wasted  
my time while serving the Colony.

I saw Aub. Hardy, in London on Monday. I hear  
W. Luston has sold Stanley Cottage for £2050. He told  
me a year ago he would get rid of it because  
he had bought "Malvinia", no, not this one,  
and who do you think is the buyer? Les Hardy BEM

We have just had an Air Mail from Winnie Aldridge J.P.  
= Mrs Pop. Back in Stanley, tears trickle down the  
paper, "nothing but rain, frost & snow since she landed.  
From another source we learn that all potatoes  
in Stanley gardens were cut to the ground by a black  
frost on, or about Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Spuds there are  
6½ lb. - imported.

Did you hear last night on the B.R.C. A.G. Barton's  
talk on the I.S. It was quite good. In case you  
don't know. Barton was a Cadet at Teal Inlet  
then managed Pebble. Married Jack Feltons eldest

daughter, and now is boss at Teal inlet; of course you know Mr & Mrs Jack are gone over. While in Stanley Barton asked me to look his sister & mother up. His sister's husband is a Doctor in Bellinsey. I called & was treated after the style of a tramp. Barton was, no doubt, here but he did not come the mile to here, He flew back to Monte months ago so his talk must have been recorded.

I have been waiting for days to tar & spray my apples, too much wind & now soaking, but rain we very badly need. my ground was bone dry at 11 inches two weeks ago. A friend who grows apples on an acre tells me they are not keeping well. I have had a very few of my Bramleys go so far, those I saw in Southend yesterday were covered with scab at 8<sup>o</sup>, some are  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>o</sup> in London on Monday. I fear I am now too late to spray gooseberries. Roses have shot out  $\frac{3}{4}$ " while I see several blooms, also of Pansy & marigold.

All the best

Yours sincerely

AJ Bennett.

14 January 1948

Dear A.F.C.

Thank you for yours of 12/1  
& photos. My MSS seems to have  
had a near squeak. I thought  
the envelope was better than  
that.

I am shortly sending you  
Chap X. = Bulks & Lighters in  
Stanley 1935? Many are not now.  
& with it will come 30-40 pp  
of wild life & that will be all  
I can do.

Have nearly all digging done,  
one more day. Have sprayed 4  
trees & have 5 to do yet & that is  
all the winter labour done.

Broad beans up. Roses shooting,  
in some cases new leaves  
& still blooms

Now, what do you propose to

Re your Sullivan the photo, I always looked upon you as years older than me, that's the wind, according to photo you was about 7 in 1887 so was I. Mine is 26.1.1880.

do with these photos?  
what a silly place to put

a monument, I see bits of houses on the beach, in peat slip & the sea wall down. The Mad. Gov. Hodson had all the old guns dumped at sea. I think copies of the 2 of Britain should go to Lloyd's & to the Civic Council Bristol, if they want them.

Note that Schulz is wearing German Army jack boots. Perhaps he was the first jerry spy to be sent there.

The photos are most interesting to me. The two views with the old church & front road, should go to the new museum, if there ever is one. Never in Hams time, Hes too tired, I don't know enough, even though he is now Hon. Dr. J.E.H. I take it I am to return your pictures. Have you the negatives?

Your sincerely  
A.G. Bennett

Dear A. F. S.

21<sup>st</sup> January 1948

In thanking you for your letter of 16/1 I express the hope that you haven't had to devour too much brandy over the first spasm of my MSS. If you are thinking of presenting copies of some photos, which I have suggested as being most worthy & valuable, I don't think it matters what size they are. The monument I referred to was on the stone jetty, what a fool of a place to stick it. No, I don't remember discussing ages with you at the Zoo. Up to now I hadn't the foggiest notion of your age.

I now send you my final, I return with thanks F. S. photos, & your MSS, the latter because I want you to read it over again for you may like to alter it in places. I have added words to make it clear to non-helper readers, for they will be the readers if ever it should be published, I have added some scientific names, too. Does it strike you how, in many places, we say much the same thing? I have suggested deletion = del. of some of your paragraphs, we don't both want to say the same thing. I told you I had put your MSS out of sight long ago & before re-typing my own, definitely so as not to 'pinch' any of your thunder. You can, with pleasure wade through the originals typed <sup>on</sup> official paper in Stanley, as the worms bit me, & started in 1931 or so. You will please return me your MSS, so that I can undertake the long job of re-typing. I find yours even exceeds all of my own. Mine is about 27,000 yours 52,000. your text will need photos you mention in it:-

- (1) Sheep on deep snow (2) Sea lion & woe wife (3) Cassard's bows
  - (4) Horizontal strata on Bleaker (5) Home made cast (6) Dead elephant in relation to Sheathbill (7) Terns nesting. Bleaker
- I'd race start. Many of your chaps need breaking up. 2,000 words is considered best. permissible is 1,800 to 2,500 words, not more, some of yours run to 6,000 words.

I think you was very wild with me over the bad weather of Feb, do you realize you are saying the same thing?

I presume that your Kelper Christian name is "Old Mossface" and you may be aware that my own is "Big feet" So I should be half a Kelper by adoption.

Hodgson dumped nearly all the guns fearing the Townspeople would bombard him. This is a good sample of the African acquired mind. He certainly was a scoundrel, & instead of being sacked as he should have been & very nearly was, was promoted to Sierra Leone & when things got too hot for him there, was further promoted to Gold coast at around £4500. I heard that he had a harem of black girls at the back of GH, while his wife resided in the front, and she found it out, & left.

I have all garden work done, lopping, pruning, spraying, digging, liming, except watering the Veg garden for club root, with, corrosive sublimate.

For 2 hours we have had an absolutely black sky, as dark as early night, now passing nothing felt.

all the best

yours sincerely

A. G. Bennett

11. Feb 1948

Dear A.F.C.

Anything gone wrong?  
your last letter was dated  
31 days ago on 12.1.48  
in which you kindly sent me  
some Victorian photos of Stanley  
& mentioned that my M.S.S.  
had reached you unpat.

Perhaps three weeks ago I  
sent you a parcel containing  
the above photos, your own  
M.S.S. for you to go over &  
the remainder of my M.S.S.  
ie One Chap on Hulks & the  
rest the Nat Hist of F.I. in as  
far as I could make it up

I am sure it has no equal  
& I am equally sure it is



very far from  
being perfect.

What might be found  
15, Nov to 30 Jan on the Jasons?  
in plants & Birds. When I packed  
up it was my intention to have  
a little expedition to clean this  
lot up. I think I should have got  
the money without very much trouble  
But then a kindly disposed gentleman  
by the name of Hitler said us to  
such things, & now my feet  
decline hard walking & I am  
certainly not otherwise robust.

Hope you are keeping fit,  
I've had a rotten bout of  
Gataarrh for some time & this  
together with the very poor  
food does not add to ones  
strength. There is no hurry.

Kind regards  
yours sincerely

A. G. Bennett



6

A. V. Cobb. Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
Silverdene  
Somerhill Rd  
Hove 2  
Sussex

18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1948.

Dear A.F. G.

Thank you for your letters of the 13<sup>th</sup> (L.P.) and of the 12<sup>th</sup> (R.) received this morning, and particularly for the photo of A.F.G. taken presumably just as he said something funny. It's very characteristic. Perhaps you will accept one of me taken about 1941 that was at a time before I developed a well-marked railway map, & a torrent ripple over my face. At any rate these marks of beauty are not visible in the photo.

So you met my friend did you. If ever you allude to this most despicable person as my friend again I assure you we shall be strangers for a long time.

Thank you for the loan of your father's letter & the Bingham cutting. Both here returned. I don't think it is necessary to mention the 80 years defunct guanoes at Mare Harbour, the nasty things, Jimmy Miller put some on wreck & Sedge Isds (which he bought) years ago now. & by this time I expect they have eaten themselves out of house & home.

I walked in on Bingham, his office in Westminster, asking for a cooks job at Deception. It didn't work. All the office staff looked up in amazement, while Bingham said "why its old Bennett from Stanley, No you don't." come into my private office, & he had only seen me twice, about 1933. Not too bad?

I will meet your strong wishes & delete the barometer lines if they are really so painful.

I sincerely thank you for your comments, & I am going to think a lot about what you say. Here are my first replies

I can't say why wild beef was not edible, but it wasn't. Was not the F.G. the first to introduce sheep, & were they not Romany March? If not what were they & where did they come from? I reached F's Jan 1912 & by that time the islands were covered by Romanys which could hardly be by Allan's imports in 1904. The clerks-carpenters sheep never climbed mountains & that was Jack Fellows scream Robson was a carpenter. Greenhields? Cameron clerk (at Derwin) Smiths? The original Felton was an ex *Lygia* & factotum to Whitington, and his body guard

I am not an abstainer, at least until recent years, when theres nothing worth drinking or its far too expensive: just think of it. the present price of any spirit is 2/- a lot, here, that is £2.16 a bottle of 26  $\frac{2}{3}$  fl ozs. The liquid contents cost about one penny to make there is no beer fit to drink, I do have one beer when I go to the Zoo. - Fellows Restaurant, they still have real beer. Still in Stanley 2 years ago you could get enough rum for 8<sup>d</sup> to be maulding lipzy. Booze in Stanley is a great evil, but its the only pastime to occupy idle minds & jaded overworked men. Some of the women join in now.

I think you are right in quoting S Miller as a good manager. The people of the £3s no longer think it a paradise & clear out as they can

I have not said anywhere that the farms should supply Stanley with milk or butter, why dont they supply themselves? My £3 a month shepherd was none other than John Hamilton of Punta Raola, and his own words to me, period 800

14<sup>th</sup> March. I have just had a severe shock, just discovered

that I never finished this letter to you. It happened thus. I wrote the above on the date given. The next two days spent rushing round London, then 48 hours of blizzard in which I spent 5 whole days thawing out frozen pipes, (none froze for 9 years) & in digging us out, round the house & to the road, The snow was over the knees, while this was in progress Mr B carefully piled up my papers together & put answered & unanswered in one pile, & so forgotten until now, when I decided that it was time some of the pile was scrapped & started to look it over, I am sorry..

I went to Stanley, as you well know, to a job of work & to study its poorly known fauna, including the museum I took this on & carried out my part with, I believe, absolute honesty of purpose, I intended staying only 5 years, I do not like the climate, and very few of the fellow officials that I worked with & under were worth a tinbers damn, Scamps, liars, mischief makers & even thieves.

No, John Hamilton's £3 a month (in the 80s) was pay the cookhouse took 30/- of this.

You view the world from a different angle to me that I knew from the start, & why I said in my letter that I forwarded the MSS with some trepidation.

Probably you have never felt really hungry you may never have had to wonder where your next shilling was coming from.

I follow no political party & never have done so.  
I am not a socialist, I follow no religion.  
My views of life are honesty to my fellow man  
& sincerity to all.

Had the book been published recent sales  
would have been high

I shall shelve it for a time now as I have  
much time to give my garden. Moreover, my plea  
is for the under dog reaper who can have no outlook  
on life, this sort of thing if continued long enough  
breeds communism. Incidentally, this horrible  
form of ism is approaching this country at the  
rate of 500 miles per year & is now about 18 months  
away

In my P. Office days my duties took me into some  
of London's dreadful shums, where one can see life  
in the raw, just victims of circumstances. Remember,  
to such people any change is welcome, for they  
may gain something. To those with nothing they cannot  
lose in any change that may take place, & so embrace  
not rif. raf of the reds. I believe this will happen  
in Stanley some day, & in order to prevent such  
happenings I believe the time has come to rectify  
matters before there is strife.

I was not short of liver pills. 99% of my MSS was  
written in the atmosphere of Stanley purposely, & what  
you got was that atmosphere.

However, much of my aims have been anticipated  
by the present Gov. Miles Clifford by creating a  
town council for Stanley recently. Les Hardy J.P. D.E.M.  
is chairman, in other words the first Mayor of  
Stanley.

My writings, I am sorry to see, seem to have quite  
upset you. To me they are straight forward facts &  
conditions. Just another place where the few  
find riches & the rest struggle to live. Its only  
another case of mans inhumanity to man.

I would most strongly advise you to read  
Progress and Poverty by Henry George. If you  
cannot get it in your library, I shall have  
great pleasure in lending you my own copy

Its a classic

It was only in the last 14 years that my salary  
in the F.S. was reasonable. I was certainly worse

off for the first years of my service there than if I had not gone at all, \* I finished up with no more than I could have reasonably expected from the P.O. here.

But, apart from fighting decrepit governors, lowly minded "higher officials", & sneaks of "brother" officers, I enjoyed the life in so much that I accomplished things I could never have done by staying in London, and had the great satisfaction of accomplishment, even if governors pinched the honour as was done more than once, I don't regret my time spent in the F.A.s, but it might have been happier.

I want to impress you that my stated views are sincere & as I see the Colony. It's up to you to give your version so that one can read both experiences  
\* I took the chance, & I never grumbled

Yours sincerely

A G Bennett

16 March 1948.

Dear A.F.C.

Now, why did we both post to each other at the same time, & after a month of silence?

This is what I have had in mind re the possible books. The Introduction to say who's who & what's what. That all was written before the war, <sup>1939/45</sup> & nothing has been done until 1948 to get it into type (this may yet never happen) The above statement will obviate changes in tense, where however changes are known they have been mentioned.

My mss is as out of date as is yours, & a covering statement seems to me to be needed, otherwise it's no use to proceed. I prefer to leave actual dates of start & finish out of the picture.

I intend to say that my portion is the considered views of a residence in Stanley of 27 years, that your portion is the result of almost a lifetime for you was born there, & lived in the Colony most of your life, largely on sheep farms.

Both views differ materially, as might be expected from people holding opposing views on life, except that both are badly bitten with the Natural History bug, & on this point agree, especially in Ornithology

also in mind is to start my chaps 1-10. followed by yours, - about 15 chapters of around 2000 each, as wanted followed by the Nat: Hist section. The map of Bleaker at the start of yours. & a sketch map of the islands on the inside covers. How does this suit your view?

The fact that Veronica blooms on Bleaker in Dec is most interesting & proves Bleaker to be a month warmer than Stanley. When I could spare the time I always had a few late nights out with a lantern & cyanide killing bottle. moth catching, in mid Jan: onward Note, the white form of V. elliptica (native to the West) is one of the few flowers attracting insects, perhaps the only one Imported flowers & blue or purple Veronica have no attraction in my experience

your long Chaps will break up.  
No you are quite wrong, I never applied  
"old mossy face to you." what I did ask  
in one letter, after reading your M.S.S, was was  
"mossy face" your Kelper christian name.  
I never heard the expression before; its a  
new one on me. Nor did I ever of "decchi ocho"  
being applied to any one, even self. Spanish for  
18 inches should be diez y ocho pulgados,  
By the way my shoes are 11s. A Felton wore 14,5  
while the human Gorilla = Jack Davis wore 12 <sup>7/3</sup>/<sub>5</sub>  
JD is the only human I have ever seen whose  
massive hands hang below the knees when  
standing upright. As do the Gorilla. Try yours.

A common pub pastime in Stanley, according  
to Gilchrist, & he should know, is who had the  
longest span, a man usually spans about his  
height, JD is about 5'10" & he spans 4'4" &  
always won the beer, in such arguments.

I cannot see that I shall have time  
to do more with the "book" for the next few  
weeks.

all the best

Yours sincerely

A G Bennett



6<sup>th</sup> Aug 48

I was tired last night when I felt bound to write you fully, & I see I failed to answer one of your questions, Meat.

Now about 2 years ago, after my Zoo Trip to S.I.s. I wrote to the Min of Food & said that some meat was available there, probably best used as sausages. (Ewes)

I was prepared to discuss rather difficult conditions prevailing, in person, with a senior official, & under no circumstances with a junior. I had served 27 years in the Colony, & having always interested myself in its progress & prosperity. I felt myself qualified to talk on the subject.

A reply reached me weeks later from Colwyn Bay thanking me for my letter, & explaining that the Ministry had gone into the matter & had come to the conclusion that as the possible meat to come from the S.I.s would not exceed 6000 tons p a. its collection & its preparation in the absence of any facilities the vast expense necessary would not be justified. I, personally believe

that the F.I.B were at the bottom of this,  
for they never touch anything carrying a  
small or uncertain profit, I view them  
as the stumbling block to any progress  
for the Colony or its people,

AGR

5<sup>th</sup> August 1948

Dear A. F. C.

Thank you for your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. To read this morning. I don't think there's the slightest chance of getting the Daily Mail for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, My news agent, a mile & a half away, can't get one, so he says. I read the "Telegraph". However my son Harold, now on leave, but more anon, brought home a "News Review" 6 last night, & now can't find it, it contains a long interview with the Gov. who is now home & brought with him a public petition for his immediate removal & a Royal Commission to enquire into the state of the Colony, That is Miles-Bliffords funeral. It boils down to what I said in my M.S. that no official who has served in Africa or the W. Indies should ever be sent to a white man's country. They have become Blacks mentally. All Govs think of is Taxes Taxes Taxes & this specimen is the most vicious one.

At any rate 99% of the adult population signed his death warrant. In addition he's imported alien labour, she can't get or keep servants, so they have got Poles in G.H. now & she's a drunk. Mark this, the Poles would not go to F.I. on the wages now paid to Kelpers & so they get much more. The News Review article states, among other pieces of tripe, that on F.I. there are no trees, no rivers or water & it never rains, (So it must be a desert).

I fear I have neglected you of late, but my time has been so full. I haven't yet even looked at the M.S. you returned me months ago

~~Harold~~ Harold, my son. Legal-clerk & a very active J.P. at a present salary much less than a bus conductor gets here, non pensionable, no more paid leave for Kelper-born civil servants, I fancy he won't go back to that Hell upon Earth, for that's all it is just now. With this type of swine we lost India & many other places including the U.S.A. & soon we shall lose England with excessive Taxes, Well Harold arrived at the end of May with a cargo - a very fine one - of penguins & Sheeps

for the Zoo. They had never before had either  
Kings or Rocky Shags, I'm rereading your letter  
It is probably the same article in both papers.

Harold had 3 weeks at Bisley shooting. Did  
not win much, but he did form one of a scratch  
team of 4 & won the Mackinnon Cup, but lost the  
Kolaros. both of which was won last year by  
the F.I.

In my Hand List of Birds pub in 1926 the first  
useful guide to I.I. birds always excepting one  
by that colossal blackguard Dr Wace pub  
in B.A. which he Pinched from my working list  
while it laid in the museum while I was moving  
it to the Town Hall.

I then had no identification of the Martins &  
swallows that spent a day or two in F.I.s in March-  
April. you couldn't shoot them in Stanley. But  
in my completed list in my m.s.s. which you have seen  
appears

Mayen's Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta mayeni* 1937 C. Dolphin  
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo erythrogastrus* One 1.10.26  
Patagonian Purple Martin *Progne subis*  
no records but often seen *Progne*

The above nomenclature is that of Prabant  
& Chubb in Handlist of Birds of S America

Yes, you are quite right, I enjoyed every moment  
of last week's heat. We had a small amount of  
rain on Monday

Please note that scientific nomenclature is becoming  
useless, long standing names are scrapped because  
someone has found in some obscure paper a name  
with a priority date. Ornithology is now very bad  
while Botany is, I believe, in a much worse state.  
As an example, most of the snipe were known world wide  
for over a century as Gallinago, its now *Copella* & next  
week may be wheelbarrow. Yours sincerely  
Agnes Bennett

What a lark if you have decided to  
write me at the same time?

16<sup>th</sup> April 1948

Dear A.F.C.

I think its time I answered your letters of  
14 & 16/3. Perhaps I have answered one of them.  
Your M.S.S. arrived safely. Last week I saw the  
(goldfish) now pop. otherwise Gilchrist (of the Globe)  
He will be 86 in 3 or 4 weeks & still rimbble, Upon  
re reading yours of 14/3 I feel sure I have answered  
it.

Glad you like my photo. Now 3 H's. well, loathsome  
& thats all for now. The present Gov is an example  
of the African mind. & I think, looking for trouble,  
He won't have far to look. Now, did you ever know  
a Gov: or other official who was any good in the  
eyes of the people? Never in your life. It is a  
fact, agreed to by the late Darnley of the B/O, that  
most of the officials sent to the S.I.s proved to be  
rotters. He was all for sacking Zach = Hodson. & Had  
no time whatever for 3 H's. either. I gathered he had  
blotted his copybook somewhere.

It was only after a man, Gov or others, had left  
Stanley & a new man had arrived, that the good  
qualities of the former were discovered. "He wasn't  
so bad after all, far better than this blighter."

Re your losses on Bleaker. I again implore you  
to read "Progress & Poverty by Henry George" & see  
where the profits went. = In rent & exorbitant  
freight, in other words monopoly unfettered

I have previously said that drink is a cure  
to the F.I.s.

Anyone can buy popularity almost anywhere  
by giving away drink.

When I went to Stanley first the chain gang  
felt quite hurt when I did not give them bottles  
of importers spirits (taken as testing samples &  
which I returned to owners) as, I was told, a fine  
chap named Campbell had done before me, I quite  
upset their ideas by saying I was not Scotch or was  
I a robber, But they soon settled down, & I believe  
feared me. especially after I had cornered a few  
big fish. Yes, I feel really proud of my work in birds  
fish & whales, not to mention a passing interest in  
plants, & insects, of course, you don't know of my  
efforts in whaling in which the late Dr Kemp FRS,  
one time scientific Director of "Discovery," asked to  
join me, & did. The result was a massive part of a  
vol of the "Report" & only  $\frac{1}{2}$  has so far been published  
another 8 years of effort awaits publication. Then there  
was the F.I. fishes & crustacea which I collected with  
notes (the late Dr Norman of the Brit Mus) wrote up  
the Fishes & publicly & profusely thanks A.G.B. for  
his magnificent collection in which he was somewhat  
assisted by J.E. Hamilton, So all the brains & energy  
is not exclusively Liverpool University.

Oh yes, the peas out of the pod of the old tie schools  
are mostly stinking snobs. This is the type that  
makes the name of Englishman stink in the nostrils  
of our Dominions, India, & U.S.A. not to mention the  
smaller Colonies, You rarely meet it in Colonials or Yanks

Cherrie

Yours sincerely  
A.G.B.

I have Sawry Grass = *Oxalis emneophila*  
still in this garden. AGB

Dear A. F. B

2<sup>nd</sup> January 1949

My thanks to you for letter, card, & Calendar of the 28<sup>th</sup>. I don't know if you know it but a local - a Dr Wells - married Foley's eldest girl & she had one son that I know of, got the self same bad Greek blood as Foley had. She died & Foley died about the same time & in the same place. Both are buried near my youngest son at St Burstead. - There is no parish of Billerica.

The skins etc were the accumulation of a man who died some years ago & I presume they were, at least in part, the residue of the once famous "Gardener" business when it closed down about 1914. There were also a lot of tropical butterflies, and lots of rubbish. No, not for the Brit. Mus; A friend of mine in business bought & sold them.

You see a petition went home for the Gov's immediate removal, & he went home on other business. The C/O sent him back, doubtless with orders to clear up his own mess, so he fired his Col Secy & Ham as they misled him. How much "face" saving & how much "scapegoat" was - I do not know. It really serves Ham right for he is the champion Toby & spittal biker, for ever creeping round Govs & others of position instead of getting on with the job. Govs are people to keep away from lest they know you too well. Stop away and keep 'em guessing is, no doubt, the best course to safety.

I feel truly indebted to you for the loan of Munro's report. I have not seen a copy since Munro lent me a copy in 1923 seeking my criticisms & in fact forgot its existence. It will come back.

Munro & self were on good terms. We discussed many problems & he went over the grasses in the Skottberg collection in the Mus. There is no doubt he was a very learned & capable man where agriculture & stock was concerned.

Jack F. the self appointed stock expert to Gov's rushed him out to inspect his wonderful flocks almost as soon as he landed.

J.F. asked Munro what he thought of his flocks & the reply was "the very worst lot of red mongrels I have seen in my life, anywhere"

The same F. tried to argue with me that goats would cross with sheep. - poor fellows.

Your criticisms especially on sheep very much damped my ardour, but your thoughtfulness in sending along Munro has cheered me up beyond words. so after all I was not far adrift. for he condenses many things that I have done. In the case of the absentee more so.

When I read through Munro's copy two or three times I returned it to him. Well Bennett. what have you to say? Its a fine report, but a devilish waste of printing & paper. How so? well, its taken you some 50 pages. of paper to say all that was necessary which you could have said in less than 50 words, Ha Ha and.? You have told them in a long screed, perhaps to let it sink in, that they know nothing about sheep, cattle, dogs, land, vegetation. you have certainly got it.

Munro specially points to the bad state of Weddell Isd. He says that in 1897 Weddell had 23,400 sheep. B. Williams once told me there was at one time over 40,000 there. In 1923 there was 8,500. & Hamilton (John) reduced them to a few hundreds.

All the best for the New Year

Yours sincerely  
A. G. Bennett



Dear A.F.C

30th January 1949

In case you should think I had pawned your mss & sold the ticket. I at last return it. I have certainly scrawled on it, here & there, but only in pencil and it will rub out.

It's been a job of work, & I have spent much over 100 hours on it. You will see that I have cut it about a bit. Reduced Chap:5 as far as possible to the desirable, around 2000 words. I have deleted in yours what I have said in mine because no one wants to read the same thing twice over

Your King Penguin was an Emperor. There is no purple on Kings. This is the 3rd one on F.I.s of which I know. I already have photos of 2 on Pebble and they were Kings there too. Oh, what you missed? Had you tried to keep him and succeeded. & taken him home you could have got £1000 to £2000 for it. Only one ever reached Europe alive & this was at Hagenbachs. They wanted £1500 & while the London Zoo was thinking things over, it snuffed it.

I fear this has been a labour of love, for I hear publishers have their shelves loaded down with books that won't sell. Too dear etc. & perhaps tripey also. Anyway the F.I.s might not be attractive to them.

I attach a list of photos mentioned in the text, so if you approve of what I have done in the arrangement: perhaps you will dig out these pictures plus all those I once selected. meanwhile I will try & write another Chap to mine, as you suggested, wade through my negatives picking out what look good. & set about getting them licked into shape & printed on gaslight.

I enclose Munro's Report, thanks very much

for the loan of it. The Foreign Office  
after 7 weeks have returned the MSS  
without comment. I should think every  
member of the staff read it & nearly wrote it out  
and they had the top copy, too.

That reminds me that I have sent you  
the top copy of my typing of your work.

Hope you are keeping fit. I could feel  
better than I do

Yours sincerely

Alg Bennett

18<sup>th</sup> February 1949

Dear A.S.B.

Although I am writing you this Friday evening and tomorrow is Saturday I may not post until Monday. Well I have written Chap 21 as you suggested and I can't say that I like it. It's the best I could think out. but I think it is far too much ego, and that I don't like. What do you say?

This is the top copy. 2500 words, about.

Re your King penguin. I have photos of King & Emperor not my taking & have made a sort of sketch of both just to show you the characteristics of each apart from size. One weighs 45 the other 90 lbs.

I have a periodical clean up of my writing table and as usual scrap the unwanted, so I enclose you two Christmas greetings, 2 or 3 years old, they may amuse you. I don't want them back

One, C.C. Morley's explains itself but the tot is wrong. The other is very clever (made in China) doubtless by a Jap. The kite and the boy are formed with fragments of postage stamps. China, Japan, U.K. USA. Can you beat it?

Now to the photos. I have selected 23. I have more. but if it does come to publication we shall, I fear, be restricted to 12 to 20 including your quota & yours are far better than my own. I got them done at Boots Buntingford branch in a week & they cost 4/8 a dozen. which is probably cheaper than taking them to Jeromes in Holloway and apart from fares.

My face appears too many lines but unavoidable as I could not get what I wanted on other plates Nos 1-18 are my photos - direct prints  
Nos 19-23 were taken by my youngest son

I thought it better to keep some photos small, under exciting circumstances for then perhaps two could appear on one plate if so desired. aps

killed in the war. They are enlargements  
3 from a Brownie 00 & 2 from V.P.K. Obviously  
No 19 is better than 16. I bought my boy a  
second hand Brownie for 1/- & he took many  
pictures with it & never made one dud. Later  
he bought a V.P.K. the only thing was the pictures  
were larger but not better

I have several colour films (positive), taken by  
my late boy, in Stanley & they are truly wonderful  
even T Binnie who developed them, was most  
impressed by their excellence. They are rinsed  
as transparent. I have enquired if it was  
possible to get, say, one reproduced in colours  
& enlarged. I am told it could be done but difficult  
& very expensive, so that is put out of court.

Please let me have the photos & Chap x1 back  
as soon as convenient to you.

When you send along your photos I will  
mount them uniform with those of mine.

Hope you are keeping well in this  
most remarkable winter. We are not very  
warm perched at 200 ft above sea (Essex is  
flat) but we are out of London fogs. Still  
Crocus's have been in flower for weeks now & I  
see tulips <sup>poking</sup> poking through & daffs with buds  
on 'em

yours sincerely

A.G. Bennett

9th March 1949

Dear A.V.C

Thank you for photos I have mounted  
4 of them, the other - Cassard I return  
herewith.

G Hansen is a young man here,  
3 years <sup>ago</sup> he was well aged comparatively.  
10/3 - In anticipation of your next epistle  
to the Romans I withheld this letter last night.  
All right, I will try & extend equivism, but  
frankly I don't like doing it.

What will Magellanes, now Punta Arenas  
again, people say? What can they say?

There is no connection now or for a very  
long time. It's now further than Rio.  
To get there one goes via Montevideo B.A. & your  
luck is in if you do it in 3-4 MONTHS.

Fitzroy goes sometimes once a year for  
a load of Sandy oak & nowt else.

Yes, any Sea Elephant will do for your test  
Really, I did not know that you cut peat  
on the chalk downs. Please don't worry

we have some coal now  
- rubbish - and some wood also.  
The wood burns the coal.

I agree it was really a perishing E wind direct from the River Lena, but you are sheltered by the Downs, we are not.

Rendall made no mention of payment, but he may yet do so. I don't think he is flourishing, but one never knows. All I know is that he has a Civil List Pension which may be 100 or 150 pa. I have never been interested in the personal affairs of any of my friends, past or present. If they like to tell me, they can. I shall never make any enquiry.

Rendall lost his wife years ago & he has no family, and I fancy a bit lonely since our mutual friend H Wynne - Finch passed over in 1939. He was fairly wealthy. Rendall is the youngest of 4 boys, Cornishmen, & some time back he was carted off to hospital with double pneumonia recovered, had a relapse, & then came home alive. Two of his brothers shaking up 90 came from Bodmin to see him. He is about 2 Metres of pump water long always thin, now terribly so.

14<sup>th</sup> March 1949

Dear A. F. C.

So far not one word yet from Rendall. As you suggested I have blown my own trumpet to another two pages - 87B. To get me on this stunt is like drawing blood out of a stone, but your suggestions have been stimulating & I thank you for them. I hate to prolong the agony.

One of my boys - Stanley. at Stanley tells me there are 2 bape men there investigating the possibilities of fishing by trawling in that huge area to the north of the F.I.s. One is a Dr of Sevaice Cape University. They bring to F.I.s in July next a trawler & a freezer ship. The Dr is most keen on birds, has my Hand list Et "Ibis" & chases my boy several times a day sometimes with "look here Bennett what does

your father mean by this  
bird." but it always comes  
correct in the end. Stanley evidently  
got "fed up" with so much of it and  
suggested Nam might be useful. "you  
know Dr N the retired Gov. Nat." just you  
forget him, I come to you for what I want  
to know.

I gave all I knew to the Nat Hist  
of the I Dols and to its museum. I went  
there for the purpose, as you know, &  
I never tired. Still the ashes are a  
very sad memory to me.

yours sincerely

P.S.

AJBenne N

Its just raining now good, the first  
rain we have had in months, but  
we did have an inch or so of snow recently

AJB



Dear A. F. C.

29<sup>th</sup> March 1949

I expect you wonder at my long silence. I had arranged to take Rendall to the Zoo to lunch on Friday last but was compelled by force of circumstances to remand the accepted invitation for I was much too ill to go out; lunch in the Fellows Restaurant is one of the best in London. Rendall has finished reading all the MSS & finds it interesting & has some, I expect a whole lot of improvements to suggest. We are to go through it together. He says it's all right.

Just 13 days ago I went, with Mrs B, to London & I picked up a very fine specimen of a cold which I am now sure was flu. Head & chest bunged up & a most violent cough. I staggered to the doctor & although somewhat better I am as cold & shaky as possible, terribly weak & a bit depressed. I still feel like breaking off at the pockets & have quite a job to write clearly, while I can't walk far. Gardening is out of the question entirely.

I enclose a letter from V.R. = Rendall, like all

writers he is a brute to abbreviate  
I hope you are keeping well

Yours sincerely  
A. G. Bennett

P.S.

In Randall's letter he refers to a "Park St"  
This is our meeting place in Camden Town  
where you & I boarded the bus for the Zoo.  
He has a great habit of losing himself  
in anything outside classical literature

AGB

20<sup>th</sup> April 1949

Dear A. F. B.

Thank you for your letter. Oh yes, I suspected you had adopted the fashion.

I never really recovered from that lot caught at the Reunion in Sept last, and I am still shaky from this dose. I am struggling to get seeds in already late.

I arranged to meet Rendall at Camden Town where I met you once. He said 12.15. Last Friday week. This is the corner of Park St now Parkway. I got there at 12.5 & waited to 1.15 & no Rendall. It was then too late to get lunch in a shop, so I went to the Zoo, had lunch, had several to see there, got away at 3.30 and it was then much too late to chase Rendall to Hammersmith. Saturday I called on Rendall, spent 2 hours with him, & brought the typescript away.

Well, he has spent a lot of time on it & there is much sowing & weeding to do. So far I have done 2 Chaps: He even got out Strong's Journal. 1598. quoted by Dr Johnson, in the MSS Room 13 Mus

r Strong never got to the Ids. He calls  
them "Falklands Ids." where he drove back  
Indians r felled a tall tree, and stood  
it on a mound with the ship's name.  
To be sure Rendall met me. I drew a map  
of Camden Town r sent it to him. Well,  
some how he got King x in his mind, went  
there and then found a Park St near the  
Angel Islington.

Rendall was away for Easter - to a brother  
ninetly something, so I take him to lunch  
when it suits him, shortly, I hope.

All the best  
Yours sincerely  
A G Bennett

circulated privately by H.W.F. or his translations from the French. If you care to wade through them I can send them along.  
Yours sincerely  
Ag. Bennett

26<sup>th</sup> Sept 49

Dear A. F. C

Thank you for your letter and the return of V.R.'s book of 15<sup>th</sup>.

I don't think V.R. would enter a "home" much too independent

I did not find a few "bugo" at the Reunion. Miss Kelham was in a nasty mood over something. Yes, some of the John Biscoe crew were there, but no officers just some of the Kelper crew.

Mrs A Bonner turned up but poor old A. B. is, I think past it and unlikely to see another Christmas. No "Pop" x. Gilchrist was not there or any of his crowd

The Biscoe brought a number of birds for the Zoo, Dr Sladen's pigeon. The Gentoo's have all passed out. 10 of 'em. I am told there are 3 Shearwaters. I saw one x the loggers

x (We saw "Pop" at his place some 6 weeks, or so, ago) then very sprightly at 37 last May

The inscription to me by H. W. F. = Clarence Wynne - Finch, he  
was our mutual friend & lavishly good to V.R. He died in 1939.  
I have 2 Vols of poems printed on hand made paper and <sup>over</sup>

I have not seen or, in fact heard  
of before. One of a bunch I took  
there in 1927 lived 12 years.

Below Cape Horn no duck exists normally.

Now, I ask you, have you ever seen an  
article in the "press", of which you had some  
knowledge, printed correctly; never.

The reason is the writer makes the mat  
of his, or her, copy, often knowing little of  
the subject; the sub-editor cuts it down  
to save expense, then the editor says,

"make this more interesting" it is done.

Then the printer says "cut out 7 lines,  
and that is done, By this time none  
of the original is left of it and so  
one reads a garbled article

yes, V.R. must have gathered his  
quotations on wild plants over a long  
lifetime and doubtless he missed a lot  
of books in which there are plants cited,  
Anyway I am glad it interested you  
I thought it would. I think I have told  
you that the publisher went broke on the  
day it was published & so V.R. got nothing  
for it

Dear A. F. C.

26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1950

Thanks for your letter of 24/1. I am not so sure that Miles Clifford is still alive as you think. If he does not get out something pretty bad will happen to him. I shall not be, in the least, surprised to hear G.H. burned down and the remains found in the ashes. You see the fell foul of local maids, both imported "displaced persons" as servants & shepherds; these promptly refused to work at local rates, that's crime No 2 in Kelpoverges.

Perhaps you know that the "Discovery" was financed by a tax on whaling, run by a committee in London, under the name of the F.S. so everyone drawing salary from this fund paid F.S. income tax; many had never seen the F.S. Now it is taken over by the Admiralty. "Discovery" sails again in April? Wm Scoresby has already gone to Australia.

F.S.D.S is the fancy name for the expeditions started under the Navy in 1941 to explore the Dependencies by scientists & still in full swing. Paid for under the grant of development moneys from the U.K. taxpayers. In many cases, perhaps in all, these grants to colonies as development is being spent to find jobs for the young bloods out of universities. Now M Clifford, I understand, gets some extra salary to run this show, so he tries to "bos" it and shine like Sirius, not so un-like Billy <sup>allardyce</sup> allardyce in "what I have done". Of course HE really did more than all after him have done with 500 times the money he ever had, but it's the same bombast. Last year M. Clifford was rushing hither & thither in "J. Biscoe". "I will rescue the men!" Of course, he was only a further responsibility to those running the boat

That's not the point. The real point is my great bravery. please for a few V.C.s and G.B.s. I think the F.I.s have had a real gutful of such opportunists and I for one feel glad the Helper has kicked.

It fell to my lot on 14/12/21 to rescue the two left behind by the "Cope expedition", just two youths with no experience at all, their habitation was only a stack of stores built around them and a boat, on land as a bedroom. I went in a Norwegian whaler & got them alive and well, even if dirty. No one said thank you or even gave me a box of matches. I traversed 150 miles of pack ice to get there.

M. Clifford flew to the U.S.A and Canada. bought 2 planes, engaged pilots to rescue those at Stonnington Isd by air if I Biscoe can't get in, (It remains to be seen if they are of any use for the job). At present they are in Deception & Biscoe is 200 miles south in Port Lockroy, This is an early date to get in there.

Then there is a journalist-photographer on Biscoe cabling much tripe to the London press just to create a No. 1. stunt in the press and cause excitement. I should not be surprised if it was sponsored and perhaps paid for by M.G. It is significant he not on board now, or I don't think so.

I started this as a short letter but its going to be large, I have nothing to do, so why not write for you to read in your forced stay indoors.

No, I don't think T.I. is yet in the maws of the F.I.C. but they have gobbled up most of the W.F. Barton's boy - about 19 is manager of T.I. under papa.

I have been enquiring occasionally for a short wave



plug in set to mine but without result. Like most things radio is much too dear for my pocket yet the country swarms with suitable bits & pieces ex Min of Supply and I don't know enough to make one. Why I have wanted one is to try & get Stanley broadcast on either 80 or 89 metres, said to have been picked up in Scotland. The time was Sunday afternoon 5pm, that would be 8pm here in our winter. They have 1 hr summer time otherwise 4 hrs slow to us. Also used to give school lessons to the nippers in camp and in Patagonia. I spoke over it.

Sorry about your out of order pen., mine go that way, too, at times. Ever tried a sharpened match?

While I am on jobs did you hear last week on the B.B.C. A woman bought a pound of whale meat in a shop and then asked if she could have the head for the cat.

Oh yes, I know Carre and in fact wrote to him on Monday congratulating him on his clear, sensible & witty rallying talk to the friends & relatives of those on Stonnington Isd, about which M.B. is creating so much ado.

Sorry to hear of your and your sister's illnesses hope you will soon be better. It's very cold here My dirty cold moved house some time ago, we both had it. I now think it was the 3 day flu.

My boys in F.I. are Stanley (married) & Harold (single) I sent 60 lbs by J Bound (in C.S.D.) & they got there OK except that most of the Cox's had more or less brown-rot.  
 o apples

V.R saw the barrow alright. he was moving it out of a dangerous place, capsized together.

On Monday ~~of~~ 15th I spent the day in town hunting for Ryder in the Telephone Directory and not there then a bookshop advised me to get the Publishers Directory at Whitakers in Bedford Sq. Cost 3/6 there are some 2000 or so names. some hundreds either out of business or Brown - see under Jones and no indication as to what they publish. Anyway V.R's Ryder is Rider 48 Princes Gate SW7. We are waiting for a mild - very mild Tuesday or Friday to go Hospital in London for an Xray on one eye of my wife. I sold a lot of my Cox's at P.L.B. because I feared they would not keep and I was right.

I view party politics in the same light as the kids of two nearby schools. "let us back 'em". All are centered only in their own pocket, and do anything to retain the vote irrespective of what is the cost to the country. The cost is far too vicious today and nationalized industries are overloaded top heavy with square pegs in round holes as rewards to party supporters, is done by all, but enormously carried on by the present gang of Jews and Taffys

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A.G. Bennett

I see in today's "Telegraph" a bias about wanting a secretary typist for G.I.D.S. in the Governor's Office at £360 pa the same pay as a bricklayer. He can't stand locals evidently

perhaps had 'em all.

MALYIA,  
STOCK ROAD,  
BILLERICAY,  
ESSEX.

23/4/50

Dear A. F. C.

Thanks for letter of 18<sup>th</sup>. I have experienced some humberg by the P.O. lately by their tardy circulation & your letter is one of 'em; quite evidently the sorters in Brighton sorting office believe Billericay is via Chichester for that is the way your letter went, but it is not often such missent letters get back-stamped. Recently had two letters from Swanage, Dorset, 40 hours in the post.

No, there is not so much danger in navigating ice as is generally supposed, especially with a wooden ship as Biscoe is. The danger lies in a gale of wind when you are crushed to powder. I never saw a low level fog in antarctic but an elevated fog at 4 to 6 thousand feet was very prevalent & caused the long sunless weeks.

Two Emperors reached the Zoo together with

winter. We have had over a month  
but what of May? as I am 276ft. above  
to are not generally bad, it is the  
it

7 Ringed 5 Gentoo & 4 Macaroni  
I think these numbers are correct  
I went and saw them all in the Sanatorium  
a few days after arrival. One or two have died & so  
did the larger Emperor. appeared to be soaked in oil  
I said wash him with soap. they didn't.

Hagenbachs had the only Emperor ever to reach  
Europe, about 1936. it lived but a few days, these are  
the first to reach England, the survivor is timid  
but was looking pretty well. The gentoos are the  
small antarctic ones. which I pointed out might  
be a sub-species. The Yanks have now done so.  
The Ringed are the first to London but Edinburgh  
have had them.

I understand Britall windows to be iron frames,  
this should answer well in Stanley. but I am  
told they are lead lights.

all buds. I presume  
frosts, so far with  
sea on a dome. to  
surrounding valley  
four eminently Aggs

~~1/2 too last season, and still eating them. The Cox's (2)  
carry more buds than last year. while the so-called  
B of Bath (2) is smothered. Its a very early apple  
rather deep in shape and a brilliant, shining red  
at ripening. On one of them I have never had above  
30 apples in any year, formed, clipped & grafted it.  
one set of grafts was a true B of B - a squat apple  
and one bud I put on is Epicure - nearly as good as  
Cox's, they all produced fruit last year, now its~~

Enclosed is a specimen of my attempt a sculpture which I hope you will like. Full detail enclosed also

Dear A. F. B.

10.2.53

Many thanks for your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> & the "cutting" of the King chicks Strange, but this cutting arrived just  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour before Harold & I set out to interview this, now very large, chick

Stewart Douglas strikes me as being the name of a once famous "Bookie"

Yes, I saw the announcement of the passing of W.M.D.

Gov Middleton arrived on Xmas day 1920. Then he got his Pal H H H to join him circa 1921. Of course of this pair they must have a Royal Yacht. & so Afterglow - a fishing drifter, wood built, was bought & came out under her own steam. She burnt coal. I was South when she arrived in 1922 for on my return to Stanley in April or May

& on my way to Town Hall  
next morning I encountered  
a one time policeman from  
Fulham leaving Mc Gill's shop  
with a leg of mutton in hand. I was  
in uniform & so he had to salute me, what  
for I don't know, I said how did  
you get here Taylor? He nearly  
collapsed meat & all; <sup>He</sup> was one of the  
crew of the Afterglow, I am not now sure  
that that was then her name, I fancy not.  
Taylor said I don't know you. to which  
I replied you used to live in  
Sandilands Rd Fulham. I do so now Sir.  
He was a drunk & so fired out of Police.  
Long ago now, the "Glow" was sold to  
"Bunkum" Watsons Sealing Co.  
She is still there or parts of her are  
blown up on the beach near to where,  
Reddemann's gut shentij stood  
at the Canash.  
The R.Y. "Glow" was disguised as  
the seal protection vessel.

anchored at the Dockyard Jetty for  
Months at a time.

I can't say much of the "Falkland"  
She must have come about 1913-4  
when "Columbus" retired. I was  
probably South also at that time,  
I seem to remember she was sold  
to Chile but I don't know when.

If all the old Shipping Registers  
were not burnt in the Town Hall  
fire, application to Customs, Stanley,  
should give you date of arrival  
there

Harold B arrived 3 weeks full  
of flu & an athlete's foot; we  
have had "something too, I think  
I have had flu and/or colds 3 times  
since early November & I feel  
very shaky, yesterday was my  
3rd to town for 2½ months.

The garden is undug & all weeds

Harold, by arrangement with the  
Zoo landed 20 penguins - gentoo  
& Rocky at Monte to be flown  
home K.L.M. 3rd Jan. They have not  
arrived yet. but they have been  
located at the now flooded Hague  
<sup>Holland</sup>

This coast flooding is a calamity  
Some of the Tilbury-Southend line  
is washed away & no trains go  
beyond Pitsea. the rest of the  
Fenchurch passengers now have  
to come special via this line

Sir T. H. H. was as far as I know P.M.G.  
I don't think at that time that the  
"wise" politicals had invented a  
high salaried job as asst P.M.G.

Best wishes

I must get a move on & poster another  
publisher. I have not  
felt well enough for  
months.

Yours sincerely  
A.G. Bennett



Dear A.F.C.

8.9.54.

Thank you for letter-card  
of yesterday's date.

I fear you are a bit late,  
for "Pop," to his friends, (short for "Pop-eye  
the sailor") otherwise Gillie or Arthur,  
Gilchrist departed this life on 23/1/53.  
Had he lived to 30/4/53 he would have  
been 90 years. He had a small freehold  
Bungalow, well furnished at Cranham  
Nr. Upminster, - about 12 miles from  
here straight, but much longer by Bus.

We often went to see him & for this  
purpose I always saved all my large  
Bramley apples  $\frac{3}{4}$  -  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lbs each, for he  
loved an apple dumpling in preference  
to anything for dinner. We have not  
been there since, & he was buried  
before we were aware of his death.  
He went, they tell <sup>us</sup> in a moment,  
just fell back on his pillow after being

P.S. Gilchrist's house is named "Borlenden"  
have you any idea why?

up for tea. I believe he left all  
to his niece (by marriage) Eddie  
Alagia, now 5 for 20 years  
Mrs Volk. No children. He, Volk, is  
Folkestone born of Dutch parents, and a  
wretched gambler. Pops left a nice pre  
war car, but nothing to Lou Volk.  
They all lived together.

A man I liked. Extraordinary in  
that he was long a dispenser of booze  
or a teetotaler. He told me he had never  
even tasted any alcoholic drink in his  
life. The only equivalent to this I know  
was the great brewer Tharrington who  
spent his riches derived from beer  
in promoting abstinence of drink

There are but very few keepers  
& semi-keepers now in Stanley whom  
I know, & much fewer you know, that  
is apart from what we knew as kids  
The nearest peat to Stanley is now  
3 MILES away.

Yours sincerely  
A G Bennett.

Pops bitterly hated  
gambling & gambling  
but he would buy anyone  
or drink.

The Upland Goose (one of your pals)  
is, in confinement, a fighter. very savage.  
Those at Whipsnade. fight all comers  
except the Egyptian Goose. the latter wins  
& is the only bird there to do so

So you know Allan Best. I've never met  
him. He was at London Zoo at one time, then  
was flying ~~£~~ things from Monte to N.Y.  
specially King penguins from S. Geo.  
at £ 1,000 a time = each.

A. S. Bennett

to the no-union, but more anon.  
You are not the only one with  
the symptoms you describe, we  
have -em, too.

Verily, the Norsk "sardine" amuses  
me greatly. I am returning the  
"Swankly" pamphlet suitably emended  
by the Professor of betacca. I hope you  
have first hand pleasure from it.  
£1200 to cross the Channel is perfectly  
silly, what hope