"Bowerwood House"
St Botolph's Road,
SEVENOAKS, Knet.

Dec.30. 51.

Dear Mr Racey,

Very amny thanks for your letter of December 8th. which I was glad to receive, Yes I discovered that inadvertently I had omitted t pack up the specimen of the Turnstone for you, but will send this off in t near future. Possibly you will have had my letter December IIth, and I sha be hearing from you as to whether you would like specimens of the European Goshawk, I have quite considerable series of this species, and can doubtle find you specimens.

We had a very good Chrsitmas made all the more enjoyable as David came back from Cambridge a fully fledged Doctor - he is a very ab boy and has worked extremely hard, so thoroughly deserved his success. On January I7th, he commences his House appointments as a House Physician at St Thomas's Hospital, London, where I qualified, as well as Jeffery, and where my Father was a House Governor during his lifetime.

I am very glad to know that you have an American Bittern for me; I have but one specimen, a mounted bird, done up by the one time London taxidermist Gardner from a relaxed skin. I do nit think I should have any particular use for the Murrulets. With the next package I will send some specimens of our Goldeneye, Bucephala clangula. Let me know which of our Anatidae and Anseres you are wanting, I can then be seeing what specimens I can spare, and can also make some skins from fresh killed birds, I have most duck in different plumages, and now do not always trouble to skin those we get, but would do so if I knew that you were wanting them. The signs are here that before very long the open season for duck will be much contracted, this will affect very considerably the getting of specimens still carrying eclipse plumage, and of course also the obtaining of some other species, notably waders in August and September. There is quite a faction of folk here who would abolish all forms of what they are pleased to call "blood sports". They are mostly people who are crassly ignorant of country sports , indeed often of country life atall!

January Ist.52.

I am sorry that this letter has not got finished, but at any rate I am able to include in it my best wishes, including of course those of us all here at "Bowerwood House" for this year of grace. We must all hope that it will see an improvement in the International situation amongst other matters. One thing especially applicable to us is naturally "good hunting" during what is left of the present season, and in those to come.

I do'nt think that there is much more just now, so will close this, with our united good wishes, and renewed appreciations of your kindness,

Yours very sincerely,

I am well off for skins of the Long-tailed Duck, except for examples in breeding dress, and imagine you will not have material in this plumage to spare.

I am hoping to put this right next summer if my plans mature as my elder son and I are hoping to get to Iceland.