Dear Mr Racey,

Feb. 17. 52.

I am afraid I have been silent for a rather long time, but have been very pre-occupied with work on the galley proofs, as well as pressed professionally and also taxidermically. Since I last wrote yo I have had the good fortune to have a fine immature male of the Western race of the Little Bustare sent me which was killed in Kent-this is only the fourth British example, although many Eastern L.Bs. have been killed over theyears. Also I had a fine old albino gander Grey Lag Goose sent mand both bitese specimens I have set up.

the last consignment I sent you but will include it in the next. I will what I can find from my series of the species you mention, and will make advise you of the contents at the time of posting. I am looking forward ty cur packet arriving, as there are several items amongst them that I shabe very glad to have examples of in my collection. I have here big series of Bucephala clangula and will look out for you adults and immatures, and will also do the same if my series perk mit for the European Goshawk These will be skins made by my old friend Ernst Flükiger of I terlaken. he and I have done trips together in the Balkans and Pyrenees.

I do not think I shall have great difficulty in getting g you a Southern Cormorant, but will wait until later on; this race is common in the Thames - Medway estuaries and I was in any case going to have a field day on them. I want a good full plumaged bird to mount up for my Bird Gallery, as well as skins, so sometime next month will do a trip by boat after them. I have actually skinned one today, but the bird although an adult female has only just commenced to get the white coming through, so is not very exciting. I have a very active corresponde dent who does some baech combing and sends me parcels full of all sorts of oil-contaminated birds etc; occasionally I get something worth the trouble of preparing. The Cormorant was shot and free from oil, so was not too much of a burden. In actual fact the Southern race seems the more common of the two froms of Fhalacrocorax carbo, and I have been interested in the matter for sometime, and all those we have collected have turned out to be figure for sometime, and all those we have collected

I could do with some in summer dress, and of Grebes and Divers only adults in summer. I would like one or two Wilsons Snipe, and the W.F. Goose. Sometime I would much like some flat skins of American ducks to mount up, but not just at present as I am very fully occupied until the book is off my hands. At the moment I sit surrounded by galley proofs and about the only unoccupied space is the bench where I do the skinning, but I should think one more lot of galleys should about finish the that side of things, and page proofs are a deal more manageable.

Yes we have had a very sad week this last one with the loss of our great King, and in this small island it was indeed kunt heartening to hear the universal expressions of the high appreciation that His late Majesty recieved; he indeed earned them by his selfless

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service; and he truly won the affection of a tremendous volume of his peoples. We all here hope that Elizabeth will not be subjected to such inordinate pressure; it does seem hard to have to bear such a great burden so young in life. She has a fine Prince Consort and I hope he will be able to relieve her of some of the pressure. It is good to know that she has such a sound Parliamentary Leader now, and I know that she has a great affection for our Premier.

ent presents look out a consignment of specimens for you, which I hope you will like.

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