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## Letter from Charles R. Bowen to Hubert Creekmore

Charles R. Bowen

Hubert Creekmore

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C H A R L E S   R .   B O W E N

Tues. Nite - the 24th

Dear Hubert:

I was very glad to hear from you that you had finished your piece on Memphis. I had lunch with John today and he was telling me about it. He particularly liked the first part. Other than that I really couldn't get much out of him about what you had said - except that once you played hookey from college to go up to Memphis and ran into your father on the street. I look forward very much to seeing it in Holiday. Be sure and let me know which issue - although I think the least John could have done would have been to have told me a few more of your observations on a city where I spent so much time and made so many observations. Much luck with the article. I hope it makes the people I am sure we both dislike in Memphis insanely angry and those we like feel much more justified in the eyes of Heaven - you know that is the effect of a good article.

Too bad about Random House and the children's book. Maybe some other publisher of Children's Books like the Babbit Publishing House in Nashville would take it. Surely you could bring the little Lord Jesus in some way, talking to Sambo or smething....

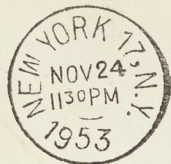
I am afraid the news on my opus is just about as bad. John was really very astute as well as kind ( cruel only to be kind ) in his judgements that it was terribly uneven and represented a minimum of time. At least he did read it through and find it interesting. I will have to whip up a new one for him, although it does look like if I simply put together the good parts of the past six, no one would ever know the divergences. In fact they would probably think it was some marvelously new and avant garde type of expression. But I don't know whether I could afford a waistcoat and a chaise lounge for the pictures, much less grow bangs.

You will be happy to know that your volumn is one of the twelve the Yale Club continues to recommend in its "Good Fiction - Recent " ( recent - that means since the end of the second World War ) List.

I hear from Elizabeth Spencer that all she does is eat in Rome. That stomach trouble. John also has a lot of funny stories about Mrs. Dylan Thomas that Dr. Sitwell and Marianne Moore told him - all this literary tete-a-tete. My goodness!

I went down to Miami Beach ( ugh!- double ugh!) and Key West (ah! double ah! ) recently. Very hot. The Key has many qualities of a Melzior-Tennessee Williams set - palms leaves, old mansions and gossiping belles, open cafes with music and dancing idiot girls and shoe shine boys, sailors, and creatures touched ever so slightly with Max Factor to protect them from the late afternoon sun. A very interesting place - and I have a feeling, reasonable. Sort of a Vieux Carre on a Florida Key.

Good luck on your article. I plan to be in Memphis around Xmas if you get up. *My best - Charles*



Mr. Hubert Creekmore  
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CH CHARLES R. BOWEN