

OLD TOKEFIELD,  
CRANLEIGH,  
SURREY.

December 5th, 1928.

My dear Ralph,

Many thanks for your note, cheques, accounts, and statements. I am interested at getting so much more from D.D.'s on account of 'Ducklings' than I expected. I only hope we shall not find them deducting most of it from subsequent accounts as 'overpaid royalties.'

As to the Hutchinson accounts, there are one or two things that rouse my curiosity. I'll just mention them, in case you are able to tell me anything.

*With a special  
impression stock -* SUMMER STORM. I thought they had remaindered the balance of the original edition; yet there are 3000~~0~~ copies in the present account, with 8 copies remaindered. Is this a re-print? If so, it may be a 3s. 6d. edition?

*Yes.*  
*Yes.*  
YOUNG FELIX. 39 copies are given as 'on hand' I presume these belong to the 3s. 6d. edition. I thought this had been printed specially as a 3s. 6d. edition. Was it simply a binding up of the balance of the 7s. 6d. edition? If there was a special printing for 3s. 6d., have they really sold it all?  
*Yes - all but 89 + 2075 are remaindered of his edition*

HALF-CROWN EDITION generally. I am pleased to see that a few copies of this have been sold. But it seems to me that they might sell more copies if any readers of my books were aware of the existence of a half-crown edition. For example, there was no mention on the dust-cover of 'A Brood of Ducklings' that the edition existed, and I never see any advertisement of the edition such as other publishers frequently insert when they are issuing a new book by an author. When we were recently up in the north, I mentioned to the Literary editor of 'The Manchester Guardian' (a Swinnerton enthusiast) that the edition had been published. He was surprised, and said 'We haven't had it'. I said 'No; for some reason Hutchinsons did not send at all to the press.' He said 'Pity.' Well, I don't like fussing, and it is Hutchinsons' business; but I do think an effort might be made to bring the books to the notice of those who like my books. After all, there must be larger numbers than those we have had returned to us (as sales) who would buy and who would give the books. I am not taking the Author's point of view; but am thinking of what I should have done at Chattos, supposing the firm had reissued ten novels in a uniform style. Don't make a fuss with Wally about this: it isn't worth it. But if one day you are talking amicably



with him the matter might perhaps be mentioned incidentally. He will no doubt shortly be issuing 'Nocturne' in this form; and it would be a good opportunity to raise the point. I may exaggerate the importance of an occasional advertisement; and Wally would probably be able to say that the set was travelled and included in trade lists and so on. However, what I am after is, I think, that whereas uniform editions of Walpole, Lawrence, and others get advertised in 'The Times Literary Supplement,' no effort seems to be made to impress the public with my own work in bulk. I do not wish to institute comparisons with the two men I have named (they could not be sustained); but I think something might be done to suggest to the world that after all I am in existence. See what I mean?

Yours ever,

J.S.

J. Ralph Pinker, Esq.

I return the accounts herewith; but have kept the cheques.