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## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

### DIVIDING SEAS

Sir,—It is a matter for comment, if not surprise, that two such intelligent men as Max Harris and A. R. D. Fairburn should be splashing at each other in the "Dividing Seas." The particular demerits of both Australia and New Zealand are perfectly obvious—indeed, they are blatant. It is equally obvious that the bulk of the inhabitants of both under-populated and under-educated countries like things the way they are and, by general apathy, intend keeping them that way. Since almost all

the most active forces of our time are also on their side, it is wasting mental energy to carry on a debate upon which Dr. Johnson, referring to another matter more than a century ago, delivered an apposite summing up. He then said, "Sir, there is no settling the point of precedence between a louse and a flea."

T. T. BOND (Mahurangi West).

### SINGER AND ACCOMPANIST

Sir,—In your issue of September 26 "Old Timer" (Hastings) has something to say about the accompanying of a

singer from Station 2YH recently, saying that the singer tried to make herself heard through a jangle of notes and sound, more of an obstruction than a help to the singer. Station 2YH is in Napier, but all the accompanists do not come from Napier. I know that there are about four of them, and one at least comes from Hastings. If "Old Timer" will check up on his *Listener*, I think he will find that the item in question was by a Hastings singer and a Hastings accompanist. I have no desire to enter into any argument, musical or otherwise, but thought that "Old Timer" should be advised of the position.

ANOTHER OLD TIMER (Napier).

### "THE DAY"

Sir,—May I express my appreciation of the short story "The Day," which appeared in *The Listener* of October 10. I thoroughly enjoyed it; and look forward to other stories by the same writer. Would you pass on my congratulations to Clare Bryant?

LAURENCE BINGHAM (Redcliffs).

Sir,—The short story "The Day," which appeared recently, seemed to lack appeal for adults. It did seem more suitable for a children's story book, although I doubt if a child would understand some of the words used. Can you tell me what a "quirendem" apple is?

H. VAUGHAN (Raurimu).

(We can only suppose that "quirendem" was a child's rendering of the word "quarrenden," a smallish, red, and very early apple.—Ed.)

### GOODWILL IN POLITICS

Sir,—I found Norman Corwin's final broadcast of his *One World Flight* series disappointing. The main idea seemed to be that goodwill and hard work on the part of the citizens in all countries would usher in international harmony, or at least, avert war.

This is far from true. Goodwill is politically effective only when embodied in institutions. For example, the benefits of the English judicial system—such things as trial by jury and Habeas Corpus—are the fruit of political struggles ending in a modification of the existing system. Unorganised goodwill does not redeem politics. John Wesley was not complete without Shaftesbury, who applied humanitarian principles in a sphere where they became socially effective.

In the matter of international harmony, despite the atom bomb we need a long perspective. We are, consciously or unconsciously, beginning to define the nature of world government. The common man has only recently been able to speak with a political voice. Considering the limitations still existing in domestic government, it is not surprising that the world structure is far from complete. Very few ordinary men and women want war. But the point is that it will be a long time before they are equipped and duly represented in the councils of the world.

Between the unharnessed energy of ordinary people who only feel the more immediate threat to security, and the lust for power and wealth in so many who rule, goodwill floats like a ghost, while security is edged towards a horrible abyss. Nevertheless, experience has always been the teacher, and the day will come when international goodwill will assume its proper political shape.

JOHN SUMMERS (South Brighton).

(Abridged.—Ed.)

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