

me the greatest pleasure, my  
dear boy, to hear of your progress  
at Winchester, and all the good  
reports of you which reach me.  
I hope to live to be able to say  
"ah! don't talk to me, Sir! I  
knew that fellow when he was  
quite a child, and even then  
Sir, prophesied what he would  
be. Don't talk to me!!" after  
the fashion of testy old gentlemen  
dear to you all, Best wishes  
for the new year -

Your affectionate friend  
Alfred Knapp.

Tell me when you write, any good  
stories for my friend Mr. de Moursel  
& illustrate in Punch. Wasn't that  
good in the Almanack about the  
Public School (obviously Ston) boy, the  
Punch Grammar?

Prospect House  
Clifton Hill  
Bristol

Dec: 27 - 1888

My dear Howell -

I fear you have by this time  
come to the conclusion that  
Cannon, like other men, are  
"deceivers ever". But if you  
will still believe me for a  
short space, I assure you I  
have had so hot a time of it  
this month - what with ordinary  
Cathedral services, Advent  
services on week days besides,  
- with Committee meetings,  
distributions of Purple, & other  
Festive occasions at which



I am expected to speak - that  
my ordinary correspondence  
has been very hard & keeps  
up with! Now, however, I am  
in sight of the end, & on  
Tuesday next (if all's well)  
I return to Hampshire.

I yesterday instructed my  
friend Mr. Bain of the Hay-  
market to send you the three  
volume edition of Ben Jonson,  
Edited by F. Cunningham. Of  
course the print is rather  
small; but you have young  
eyes, and on the whole it is  
a good useful edition.  
'Ben' will do after Shakespeare.

but he was a "big" man for  
all that.

Thank you dear sister for her  
prompt reply to my enquiries  
after your father. I hope the  
dumplings so long since passed  
away. After the sad experiences  
of his early days in the Dalton  
Temporary Police Court, I was  
terribly afraid at first that  
his complaint was what the  
Doctors call "Flea-bite-is"  
(pronounced Phlebitis) - & of  
course I was proportionately  
relieved to hear the real state  
of the case.

Let me hear that the books have  
reached you, and tell me at  
the same time how long your  
holidays are this time. It gives