

Miss Morgan said that she thought HOFFIE had taught himself to read from the capitals in the newspapers. He read the Bible very consistently. Miss M. spoke of the influence of Ernest Baker both on Mrs. H. and H.

She remembers that when she was a young girl (about 17?) she used to visit Mrs. H. in Rheder Street., as Mrs. H. was at that time an invalid. H. was a child of five or six. He used to set up soap boxes for a pulpit and hold a service in his mother's room as she could not attend the Church service. He would start with a hymn and a prayer and a reading of a portion of Scripture, then give out a text and preach, have closing hymn and prayer. The whole service lasted just a certain time. Then the soap boxes and Bible would be put away and he'd be a child again and play his own games. Mrs. H. used to say to Miss M. "Just go on talking - take no notice of him - pretend you don't hear". The last text Miss M. remembered H. preaching on was, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols". Miss M. then went to Stellenbosch to study for her Teacher's exam, and lost touch with the H's. but had a letter from H. written soon after this period.

M. didn't remember seeing H. again until thirty years later. He had come to Capetown for some function (Garden Party, Child Welfare) and she and her sister spoke to him. H. asked about the letter he had written her as a child.

Miss M. said H. spoke English at home and read the Bible in English. He was not a robust child - small and slight. She thought Mrs H's affection went to H. on account of his not being strong. She said

Mrs. H. was very strong-willed. H. did not wear specs in those days.

Miss M's sister (Mrs. Albertyn) remembered meeting H. in Stellenbosch just after matric results had come out, and he was flicking acorns with a cane.

COPY of Letter to NM from JHH (aged 6)

Cape Town,  
15.5.00

My dear Nelly,

How are you getting on? Nelly we are back again from Stellenbosch. I miss you very much. Do you like your school. I do not have church any more as mama is up. I am reading such a nice book. The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling. It writes about animals. My Aunt Anna is no longer with us. Hessie and Lettice send their best love to you. Will you please write to me. Now I must end. With love from

Yours sincerely

Hennie.