

we don't know
your address
anymore

91 Me Winks
Whitely Bay,
Northland.

PC170/1/10/14
E. Vignie
Personal
Archive

5 June 1965.

my dear Randolph,

Recently I have seen
aest at doing things I
loathe whenever I have
remembered you exist.
Rather than face writing
to you I have washed the
car, gone shopping and
even mowed the lawn more
than once. Finally writing
seems almost the easiest
way out.

We have specific plans,
and the absolute irrelevance
of life here would be
insupportable, if we hadn't.
But you must judge what
they are from the fact that
it is best if no one here
knows of them.

Meanwhile being a
sub-editor is interesting
enough and the experience
may be valuable later
if things go wrong. Besides

I think it is a thing one ought to know about.

I am sorry about the review but every time I tried to finish it I ended up scrubbing out what I had written previously - one step up and two down, with the inevitable result.

I tried to work out why. In isolation I have become sensitive about my inadequacies and almost neurotically self-critical. I don't think I have anything worthwhile to say - and least of all about Africa.

(Incidentally I don't think anyone has who doesn't continually spend a great deal of his time there). Also in isolation the New African itself receded in significance (Perhaps it would be better if I stuck to mowing the lawn). If you think this particular attack is an extension of our last argument you're wrong. I agree now that violence (unspecified) appears to be the only weapon capable of doing the job (also largely unspecified).

But I would add that at present I see no likelihood of violence materializing, much less succeeding, though you may have inside information.

What I was trying to say was that I don't want you to jump to the wrong conclusions about ^{why} I am criticizing the NA. h

In the end only facts are important. Comment is a bore, which is why TEN went down well at first and which is why the NA will never have a worthwhile circulation.

?
Transkei
Liberal
News

Have you seen this new magazine ^{called} African Assessor? A correspondent in every country on the continent who knows what's going on behind the headlines. They're pro-Africa, non-aligned (west), and concerned to understand and explain. I think it's a very good thing. But the NA-brand of sterile debate and in-fighting - no one gives a damn,

Except those involved. That, anyway, is how I feel in isolation. The cheque I am returning means I am turning in the towel review - *
wise. Please don't be angry.

I have been reading a lot, chiefly to retain my self-respect I think - mostly about China and India and Indo-China. ~~There~~ Their problems and experiences seem very relevant to Africa.

Sheila is fine and coping well and Janey and the nouse keep her so busy that she ~~isn't~~ hasn't the time I have to brood. Janey is a delight - standing up now, all the time practically, and falling on her head, and very exhausting.

William and the children must come and stay for a while in the ho if they can. Is your trip still on? Have Sheila send

Yours,

John Clare