

11/16/2/9

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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET

NEW YORK 27, N.Y.

As of 27 Armour Road,
Princeton, N.J.,
08540.

Jamaica, West Indies,
2/25/1968.

EX-PRESIDENT'S ROOM

Dear Miss Boyd,---

Thank you for sending me Alan Paton's Lenten book. I am sorry to have been slow in acknowledging it; I wanted to read it slowly, as intended. I hope this statement may still be of some use to you. Best wishes in promoting the book.

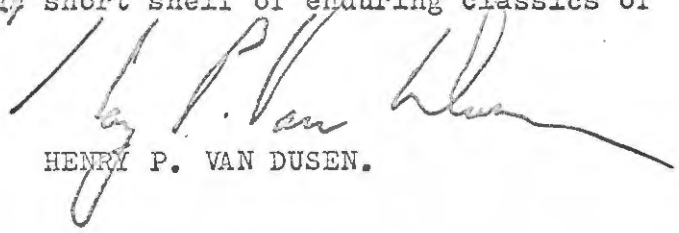
"I have no hesitancy in affirming that INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE is Alan Paton's noblest book.

Into this score of brief meditations ^{have} been distilled the insight and wisdom, the fortitude and ^{fidelity} ~~faith~~ of over half a century's unremitting quest for righteousness, both personal and corporate-- a righteousness both true and strong because refined and tested on the anvil of the seeker's own practice, a righteousness ~~both~~ generous ~~and~~ yet stern because purified and ennobled by his secure faith.

"Written for sinners" as the author declares "by one of them", countless readers will affirm gratefully, "He speaks to my condition." Indeed, if that is not every reader's spontaneous response, he reveals thereby that he does not rightly recognize his own "condition".

Prepared for Lent 1968, it is the perfect book for this hour of tortured ~~unresolving~~ irresolution and guilt in the Nation's life and ~~ominous~~ ominous threat to Mankind's future.

Prompted by Francis of Assisi's great and familiar prayer, INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE is ~~certainly~~ ^{clearly} the finest ^{statement} work of spiritual devotion not only of the current year but for many years, worthy of a permanent place on the short shelf of enduring classics of the life of the Spirit.


HENRY P. VAN DUSEN.