

FROM THE BISHOP OF STEPNEY
The Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston, C.R.

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LONDON, E.1

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24th April, 1972.

My dear Alan,

Many thanks for your letter of April 17th.

I am sure that Dorothy Maud will accept my decision about Ned Patterson, and I am awfully glad that you felt able to do so too.

With regard to my relationships with Ambrose, I do think it's awfully important you should remember that he is still alive and that I do still see him from time to time! He, is as you know, a very sensitive person, and now that our relationship is such a happy one I should be terribly distressed if anything that appeared in the book should indicate something which he might feel sore about. I must obviously rely on your good sense and discretion (a pretty large order!) in this matter. Seriously, I think I can explain the way things went in this way: I got very fond of Geoffrey, and when he left Johannesburg there had been none of the collisions which later made our relationship so difficult. Those came right at the end of my time in South Africa, in 1955 and 1956. At first, I think you will agree, it isn't easy to transfer one's loyalties; and, although I very much respected and admired Ambrose, it took perhaps two years before I felt confident enough to be able to open up to him. I believe the same thing was true of him, because he was after all succeeding a very great man, and that great man was his Archbishop. So I don't think there's anything really very special about this kind of difficulty over making contact. I would say about my contact with Geoffrey that it was as close as that of anyone else in my kind of position. It's possible he felt a little bit freer because I was a member of a Community and therefore was in a sense in a more detached position than those clergy who owed their loyalties solely to him, but I wouldn't dare to press that point. With regard to Ambrose, I can only say that the longer I worked under and with him, the easier it became, and when we met in England very briefly before I went back to Africa to Masasi, I felt that we were really moving very much with the same tide.

I am glad you found the Observer article impressive. I quite agree that it is remarkable how some of us are able to retain our youthful attitudes and even appearance. Of course I realize that not all are so fortunate. Neither, of course, can everybody be born with attractive hands. That, again, is a matter which one can only be thankful for when one observes other people's

I much look forward to receiving Chapters 7 - 14 of the book. I must say that you are showing a certain amount of diligence in getting the chapters written rather faster than the first part of the book, and I hope you'll keep it up. Otherwise we shall both be too old to enjoy the snide comments of the critics.

Yours ever affectionately,

A. Paton, Esq.,
P.O. Box 278, Hillcrest, Natal.

Trevor C.R.

R.S. ↓

P.S. Beyt is coming to lunch with me tomorrow
and Colin is already staying with me.

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