

PC111/1312/152



P.O.Box 278,
Hillcrest,
Natal.

Merch 6th.1970

Dear Trevor,

You ask me a very difficult question. I am at the moment estranged from Robert Capetown and that has rather put me off the biography of Clayton.

You are quite right about the difficulties of the early years; I had thought of a solution to this problem, and that was to call the book "Geoffrey Johannesburg" and to write an introduction which would in fact be a brief account of his life and career before he came to South Africa. I really do not see any other solution. I collected a tremendous amount of material about Hofmeyr's youth and boyhood, but in any case his mother was alive and she would talk endlessly about it. As you know, Arthur Blaxall did some work for me, but I don't think he has any real understanding of human nature, because he really did not find out anything of great interest. I shall let you know more about this later.

In the meantime I have just read a book called "Francis Carey of Kenya" by L.B. Greaves. There again you have a painstaking biography with hardly a flash of fire from one end to the other. I suppose it is a truism that a great deal of the biographer goes into the biography

I hope this letter reaches you before you set out for the West Indies, so that perhaps you might take five minutes off and ring Jonathan Cape, speak to Miss Gaye Poulton, and ask her to send me a copy of "A Rumour of Angels".

There is a possibility that I might see you again, though not exactly a probability. I will tell you more about it later.

With affectionate wishes,