

pa/1113/2/89



23 Lynton Road,
Kloof, Natal.
15th June, 1967.

Dear Mr. Handford,

Thank you for your splendid letter of May 18th and the notes attached to it. I hope that you will be willing to continue this correspondence, and would like to ask you some further questions.

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1. Why would Robert Whitelaw appeal especially to G.E.C? What sort of man was he?
2. You name the hymns used at his induction. I am going to study them, but again would like to know why they especially appealed to G.E.C.
- 3 I could not expect you to send me the copies of the parish magazine, but you would greatly help me if you would pick out those articles which you think throw light on G.E.C's character, and have photostats taken of them, for which naturally, I would pay.
4. Could you write a few notes about the famous Dr. Brightman?
- 5 I am going to compare the revised prayer book of 1927 with the edition of 1928. In the meantime perhaps the article you mention would also help me.
6. When G.H.C. was appointed Archdeacon, the magazine said "We have learned to love Mr. Clayton and to recognise his earnestness and great Christian virtues." A great deal could, of course, depend on the personality of the one who wrote these words. People I know who knew G.H.C. felt for him an affection which was strongly compounded with respect, even awe and even fear. I would never have described G.H.C. as earnest. That he was earnest, I have no doubt, but I always think of the word "earnest" describing what we call "an earnest young man". As for the great Christian virtues, he combined the, as you know, with the most extraordinary moroseness and irritability.
7. Mr. Harris mentions G.H.C.'s possessiveness in regard to his young curates. Could you enlarge on this? I have not yet been in touch with Dick Yates but I have always heard that Dick's marriage caused a breach between G.H.C. and himself.
8. Yes, G.H.C. would certainly be very morose. In spite of his moroseness his brusqueness, his glaring at people who coughed while he was preaching, his sometimes almost cruel handling of speakers at synod, in spite of all these things, I never knew one person who did not think that he was a great man. But why do you think he was morose? Mr. Harris sent G.H.C. a copy of a sermon which had greatly impressed him. G.H.C. replied that he had no use for this kind of sermon at all. Mr. Harris writes "Was it his fear of at any time expressing emotion, and that it (I assume Mr. Harris means the sermon) touched on certain inhibitions in himself which he was utterly incapable or unwilling to face?" I have also on many occasions noticed his displeasure at any expression of emotion and would

like to ask you if you agree that he had these inhibitions, and if he had, what was their nature.

9. Can you enlarge further on his preoccupation with Crookford's Clerical Directory? Did he ever read fiction, history, biography? What lies behind the remark "I have just appointed the Rev. Mr. U to the Deanery of Winchester."?

10. Smoking: I presume that when you begged him to start smoking in Lent he refused to do so? During Lent he smoked on Sundays, did he not? And would that mean from midnight to midnight?

You must not be sorry that your notes are disjointed. Everything that you write except what is new to me, fits in exactly with my picture of him.

I am slowly gathering material but I just want to explain to you that owing to my wife's continuing illness I am very much circumscribed and I do not see my way clear at the moment. In the meantime, such letters as yours and Mr. Harris' are of great help.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev. C.W. Handford,
St. Margaret's Lodge,
EAST GRINSTEAD, Sussex
England.