

\* Apparently Alfred Schweitzer was with father  
Campbell in the presence of a well educated Black African

S. Paul's Vicarage,  
32 Wilton Place,  
LONDON, SW1X 8SH

Telephone 01 235 1810

My dear Alan,

A few weeks ago Michael Scott came to see me bringing your manuscript of the proposed book on Geoffrey Clayton. I have read it through with great care and the deepest interest. It has indeed become not only an excellent biography but a wonderfully interesting history of ecclesiastical and political events in South Africa during the last 40 years. I understand from Trevor Huddleston that it will be printed in S. Africa and you hope to publish it some time in September. I only hope we shall be able to buy it without difficulty in England.

For English readers I just wonder whether the second half of the book does not tend in places to dwell with possibly too much detail on all the ramifications of S. African politics so that the main subject of the book tends to disappear for all too many pages at a time. I know you will not take this as any kind of criticism. I am of course in no position to do any such thing.

Trevor tells me that the title of the book is likely to be "Apartheid and the Archbishop". That, to my mind, is a somewhat inspired and skilful idea and very probably eliminates the apparent criticism I have made.

I imagine I am to send the manuscript direct to you but will not do anything until you confirm this. If you want it despatched by air I will do so, though I imagine that would cost a good deal. If you allow me to do so I will send it by ship - and if that is done we should only lose at most two weeks in time. In any case, do you think I ought to register the parcel?

On a separate sheet I enclose certain notes I have made, most of them in the interest of accuracy.

If I may say so, I would congratulate you with all my heart on this book. I have some idea of the immense labour that has gone into it. You have drawn a most vivid picture of Geoffrey's complicated personality. It struck me as I read it that it had certain weaknesses as well as the great strengths of a typical public school education in the early years of this century and a background of being the son of a bishop with a somewhat alarming mother. Always the head prefect, and sometimes the headmaster, he never quite transcended paternalism which one saw at its touching best in his invariable kindness to Black and to Coloured people, but which brooked no competition with white people almost, if not quite, as intelligent as himself. How much more could be said! \*

Certain dates at present omitted might be known by Canon C. T. Wood. His new address is Taunton House, Hof Street, Cape Town - if you have no other source of information.

With all best wishes, and I hope to have the privilege of meeting you



Chap.1, page 1, line 8

Concerning Clayton's father becoming an assistant bishop, having been a suffragan, might it not be better to describe it as a "lesser" position rather than a "lower" one?

page 5, note 2

X Claude Handford died towards the close of last year, 1972.

page 7, last line

"University Church Society". I am too young to have heard of that, but I suspect it was the precursor of the S.T.C. - Societas Trinitatis Confraternitas. That in my time was an Anglo-Catholic undergraduates' society. In the years I mention, John How was at first President, succeeded by Eric Milner White.

page 8

The triennial Mission to the University has continued since the early 1920s. William Temple then bishop of Manchester was responsible for the one in 1925. Michael Ramsay then an undergraduate at Magdalene College, attended each evening and I believe it got him for the Christian faith.

page 13

I do not think Figgis ever held a position in Peterhouse. On the title page of three of his books published in 1912/14/15 he is described as "John Neville Figgis, Litt.D." In the 1914 book is added "Hon.D.D. (Glasgow); of The Community of the Resurrection; Hon. Fellow of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge".

Chapter 2, first paragraph

I do not think Geoffrey at first was Chaplain and Fellow of Peterhouse. Had he been so the Master could hardly have thought him too young to attend their high table. In Cambridge Colleges the clerical Dean is invariably a Fellow. If the College also had a Chaplain he was not a Fellow; unlike Oxford where the Chaplains were invariably Fellows. Some Colleges in Oxford today now appoint an extra Chaplain to be closer, pastorally in touch, with the undergraduates, e.g. John Gilling who held such a position at Christchurch and now is Vicar of S. Mary's, Bourne Street, S.W.1.

page 2

At Chesterfield, Clayton's simple teaching sermons on Sunday evenings between 1927 and 1930 when I was one of his curates, drew larger congregations than ~~4~~<sup>15</sup> have ever seen in a large parish church in England today - simple people coming in from outlying mining towns and villages.

Chapter 8, page 8

I happened to be staying in Cape Town for three months at the beginning of 1949, when twice I stayed with Clayton for a few days at Bishopscourt. I remember two of his remarks; I thought Michael Scott was at that time temporarily in prison having taken part in some political demonstration in Durban. Clayton was not amused and growled "Why doesn't he stay in Johannesburg and get on with the job for which he is paid?". I see at the beginning of Chapter 20 this event apparently took place in 1946. Clayton might have been speaking retrospectively.

P.T.O.

"Good Hope"  
March  
1957

Chapter 8, page 8 (continued)

I had just preached in an overcrowded church in District 6 and had remarked what fine people some of the Coloureds were. I was a little surprised when Clayton remarked quite bluntly that he did not hold with mixed marriages. He could not believe it was the divine will that the human race might eventually become coffee coloured, as such a mixture usually produced weaker characters.

Chapter 11, page 1

C. T. Wood might be able to supply Phelps's age as he was his chaplain from about 1930 onwards.

Chapter 21, page 13

Cyril Tomkinson was never a curate at Chesterfield. I succeeded him as C. P. Hankey's curate at St. Mary-the-Less, Cambridge. He may well have been Clayton's last curate there and Hankey's first. I am pretty sure he was. Hankey had been Vicar of St. Matthew's, Westminster, and was Clayton's own choice as his successor at St. Mary-the-Less. Between leaving St. Matthew's and arriving at Cambridge Hankey to everyone's surprise married Frank Harris's daughter. Clayton was furious. Hankey retired from being Dean of Ely a few years ago and is still alive, being well over 80 years of age.