

pc/11/1713/117



P.O. Box 278
Hillcrest,
Natal.

September 18th. 1972

Mr. David Welsh,
University of Capetown.

Dear David,

I am enclosing chapters 28 - 33, which brings the book to an end. In the meantime I am reading THE ROOTS OF SEGREGATION and find Chapters on the Langelibebele affair, the "Economic background", and the "assessment of Shepstone" very interesting, partly I suppose because the first and last are more biographical and the middle one is so relevant today. I am now looking forward to reading the post-Shepstone chapters. One might, I think, describe these three chapters as "absorbing".

You suggested giving REALITY a specimen chapter from your book on the universities. When is this likely to materialise? I have been asked by the Editorial Board to ask you to consent to a slight acceleration of pace.

Yours,

P.S. Thanks for the boncells of 40 cents you left me in your bedroom - I am trying to think of some "tremendous" cause to which I can donate it!

P.O.Box 278
Hillcrest,
Natal.

July 19th; 1972

Mr. David Welsh,
University of Cape Town,
Rondebosch.

Dear David,

I am sorry that you have been worried about the fate of your letter. The delay is due to me. I shall try to answer the points that you raise.

1. You are correct in regard to the date of Clayton's address to the D.R.C. Synod.

2. Yes, I should be glad to have the CAPE ARGUS leader written after his death.

3. I have made note of your offer to negotiate with the ARGUS regarding the photographs in their file. This is really a matter for the S.P.C.K., rather than for me, but I shall bear it in mind.

4. Thank you for the story about Clayton and the Black Sash.

5. I already have the story about heaven.

6. I had not heard the story about the women who smoked a pipe, and it would be difficult to introduce it.

7. You are welcome to come and stay here. I presume you will have a car because this is not an easy place for public transport. Let us have the itinerary as soon as possible.

8. How many of your students assume they will not stay? I must confess that it worries me too; the underlying assumption is that while you are a student you can afford to be public spirited and after that not. The number of National Presidents of the S.R.C. who now live abroad is alarming.

9. I have a copy of Laurie Lee, but it has no portrait in it, unless course you are referring to the pen portrait. I agree that it is excellent. I wrote to Laurie Lee, but he has never replied.

/10.

10. I have not seen the Penguin edition of LIGHT ON A DARK HORSE

11. One last request. On March 30th. 1952 Clayton delivered a tercentenary sermon. It was reported in the CAPE TIMES on March 31st. My notes on this report, I think obtained with your help, do not say a) whether the meeting was part of the national celebrations or whether it was only municipal. This is an important point because I am dubious if Clayton would have been invited to be the main speaker or preacher on a national occasion. b) where the meeting was held. c) who else was there, who else spoke, who presided. You may or may not remember that Clayton chose anything but a celebratory theme for this sermon. He chose as his text "Forgive us our Trespasses". As you can imagine many people were very dissatisfied.

12. In your notes taken from the CAPE TIMES of October 29th. 1953 you quote Thomas Ngwenya, who said that the only difference between apartheid and the bishop's statement "is the difference between two persons, one speaking English and the other speaking Zulu, but meaning the same thing." I am puzzled as to why Ngwenya should use the word Zulu. Do you think he meant Afrikaans? As it is at present it does not make any sense to me.

13. One last request, which is not from me but from the REALITY board. Why do you do nothing to support us? We review your books and what do we get for it - feathers! You have set up a clique in Cape Town which no doubt imagines that it contains the world's greatest intellects, but this does not help REALITY. Francis Wilson is an absolute wash-out. His promises, though venerable in point of time, are worthless. I should be glad if you would tell him from me that he need not waste his paper in writing to ask me to do anything for OUTLOOK again. Nevertheless I send love to Lindy.

14. Now for a little conversation. I find Margaret Ballinger's book very bad indeed. It not only lacks chronology, it lacks drama altogether. It is a very arid book. I am sorry that I have now passed the year 1948 because, although I should not say so, HOFMEYR was far and away my best reference book. I also have reservations about the second volume of the O.U.P. HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA. I am not at all sure that the method adopted was a good one. One is expected to absorb seven or eight different themes and then to put them together again. I do not think that Leo Merquard's HISTORY OF AFRIKANER NATIONALISM has enough to say about the succession of terrible laws that were passed after 1948. If you think it wise you may keep these remarks to yourself. I think that the second volume is very bad compared with the first.

Tony Mathews's book on the other hand, is in the first class, though I must admit that I did not read Section One. However I now stop this rambling and get down to some work.

Love to the whole Welsh family from us both, Yours ever