



PC111115/4
P.O. Box 1567,
JOHANNESBURG.
23rd April 1947.

Dear Mr. Perkins,

I cabled you yesterday "Posting manuscript contract airmail tomorrow." This manuscript includes the title-page, a second title-page with sub-title, a Dedication to the Burnses, a Preface, and a complete list of all alterations required to the MS in your possession, plus eight chapters completely re-typed. I was compelled to re-type five of these because you have two different versions of them, and I want to be certain you get the correct version only. I enclose also a list of pronunciations (if you think it valuable.)

I have heard nothing from Jonathan Cape, and I assume that I may make other arrangements.

Your remarks about the anti-climax gave me much food for thought. It is interesting that my South African critics (with one exception) found no decrease in intensity in the last six chapters, but it may be that they did not regard the trial and verdict as the climax. In any case, is your standard of universal application? Where is the climax of Julius Caesar or Macbeth? And would you judge Wolfe (whose novels I read and re-read with intense enjoyment on the long voyage home) by that standard? Nevertheless, had I not received your letter saying that you were waiting on me, I should have reconstructed the last six chapters and indeed, am still ready to do it if you give the word.

I should have had this MS back to you earlier, but came back to find that the whole institution of Diepkloof Reformatory is being moved, lock, stock, and barrel, to another site.

Please note that the contract gives the title of the work as

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"Cry the Beloved Land," whereas its title is "Cry the Beloved Country."
I hereby state however, that while I sign the contract in respect of
the work entitled "Cry the Beloved Land," I understand it to refer to
the work entitled "Cry the Beloved Country," and desire to retain this
second title.

I close with warm regards to you. I trust we shall meet again,
though whether I shall then be a moderately successful novelist or a
moderately successful Civil Servant, I cannot say. And why should I
inflict the second of these upon your sensitive soul?

Yours ever,

Alan Paton

I ask you please to do me two favours.

(i) Send a cheque for £ \$ 197.50 to Mr. Aubrey Burns,
127 Cypress Ave
Fairfax
Cal

(ii) \$ 10.00 to NPA

1790 Broadway
New York 19

(iii) Hold the balance & make it "for att = Mrs. Bell."

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