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OW

20/10/48

Mr Alan Paton,
P.O. ANERLEY,
Natal.

Dear Alan,

Many thanks for your postcard about my Cape Town speech. It is very cheering to know that you like it.

Nell has read your book and she thinks that it is one of the few books by South Africans that stands up to her rather high standards of literary criticism! I am waiting until the Christmas vacation to settle down to it, and shall let you know after that what I think about it. In the meantime, if Nell says it is good, I can safely congratulate you on it very heartily because she is one of the most critical readers I know.

René de Villiers told me that you were busy writing poetry at the moment, and I suggested to him that he should ask you to let me see it with a view to publication (that is, unless you have promised it elsewhere). As you probably know, the prospects of publishing poetry are not terribly bright; at the same time, there are prospects, and I should feel very pleased if I can assist in any way to let your material see the light.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

P.S. Do you ever come down this way? If so, we shall be very pleased indeed to have you out at Stellenbosch.