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October 2, 1953

Mr. Alan Paton,
Toc H TB Settlement,
Post Office Box #27,
Botha's Hill, Natal,
South Africa.

Dear Alan:

I had a visit yesterday from Edward Weeks, editor of The Atlantic Monthly. We covered a good deal of ground. He spoke with tremendous admiration of Too Late the Phalarope — I think I sent you the very fine review he did himself for The Atlantic.

Ted suggested an idea which I thought might interest you and I told him I would bring it to your attention. He feels that, while there have been a good many articles on the economic and other material opportunities open to young men in South Africa at this time, nothing has been written to point out the opportunities for human service, and for the solution of human problems, that South Africa offers as a challenge to men not interested merely in ~~the~~ material self-advancement. He wonders whether you would be willing to write an article for The Atlantic on this subject — it need not be more than 2,500 words in length, but it could be almost any length you wanted to make it. Should you be interested in doing such an article, it would be likely to reach the largest number of people if it could be in Ted's hands by November 15, or possibly the end of November at the latest. Would you let me know about this, dear Alan? Don't bother to write a letter, just drop me a note.

I don't think there's anything special to report about Too Late the Phalarope. The sale of the Scribner edition to date is very nearly 35,000 copies. September was a very quiet month in the book stores, owing to the terrific heat during the first two weeks and the fact that Labor Day came so late. Things are looking up now.

Greetings to you, dear Alan, and to your wife, who very kindly wrote me several times while you were abroad.

As ever,
Jack

[Handwritten notes and signatures in the bottom right corner, including a large signature and some illegible scribbles.]