

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
PUBLISHERS

597 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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APR 21 1953

Mr. Alan Paton,
T. B. Settlement,
Botha's Hill, Natal,
South Africa.

Dear Alan:

The excitement and happiness aroused in a publishing house by any great literary achievement continues to reverberate through the House of Scribner, as one member after another of the organization has the experience of reading Too Late the Phalarope. This is an excitement and a happiness so pure and, one might say, spiritual as to lift the reader temporarily out of the hurly-burly of life and give him a larger vision and a deeper understanding. You must yourself be aware that you have written a great book, but I can't help telling you this over and over.

We are bending every effort to get the book into production with the least possible delay, so as to be prepared should the Book-of-the-Month Club decide to issue their edition in August. They are as excited about the novel as we are, and we both foresee, and shall work for, a very wide distribution so as to get the book into the hands of the largest possible number of people. If all goes well, we shall hope to be sending you galley-proof by airmail on the first or second of May. That would be complete galley-proof. We may be able to send you part of the galley-proof earlier than that, and the balance on May first or second. We are pulling the proofs on very light paper, and shall send you two marked sets in separate airmail shipments, so that if one were delayed by bad flying weather, the other would not be.

We are, as you see, working on a close schedule, and to meet that schedule it is necessary that we have the complete corrected galley-proof back from you not later than May 25, the absolute deadline. I hope we're not crowding you. We ~~of course~~ shall give the galleys a most careful reading here and will transfer to your corrected galleys on their return any corrections which our reading finds necessary and which you might not have caught. I should not think it would be necessary for you to read page-proof for corrections, as we shall check page-proof with galley-proof most carefully. But we shall of course send you, for your perusal, a set of page-proof.

We shall also send you a third set of galley-proof by sea-mail, as requested by you for the individual who wants to do a German translation.

By now you have received the contract sent you by Charlie in two alternative forms, and his accompanying letter to you about an advance, and so forth.

We await final word from Jonathan Cape about the Canadian rights. We feel sure that he will want to straighten out this mix-up.

We also await your decision, dear Alan, in the matter of the title. I don't know whether any of the suggestions we sent you will meet with your approval, or the idea of changing the name of the bird into something with which readers are familiar. It will be well to get the matter of the title definitely settled as soon as convenient. The English edition, our edition, and the Book-of-the-Month Club edition must all bear the same title.

How I wish we could have a talk and I could try to tell you how I feel about this new work of yours! My wife has read the novel. When I told her this morning that I was writing you, she said, "Will you thank Alan Paton for me for having written that book."

My very best to you, dear Alan.

As ever,

Jack