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Ans. 3.V.54.

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November 19, 1953

Mr. Alan Paton
c/o Scribner's
597 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Paton,

You are unaware of it, but you were my sole companion for several days last week. We made the hour-long trip from Peekskill, New York, to New York City, and back again, for several successive days. Time never went more quickly on the New York Central.

When I was through reading "Too Late the Phalarope" I found that I had just passed through a very moving emotional experience. I passed the book on to my wife, who was equally enthralled, recommended immediate purchase to many of my friends and called to thank the young lady who had suggested that I read your book right away. So, you see, you shall keep others company for some time to come.

Why am I writing this letter? Because it is my deepest feeling that a sensitive writer, like any person of sensitivity, needs assurance that he is being read and understood and appreciated. I felt that I knew you when I read "Cry the Beloved Country", saw the play, viewed the motion picture. Now, in "Too Late the Phalarope" I felt as if I had rediscovered a dear old friend who didn't even know that I existed.

The reason for my strong emotional reaction to your work is that I am personally almost a zealot in my belief in the inherent dignity of man. It is difficult to relax about the safety of man's dignity, even here in the "North", although our outrages are hidden from many and ignored by more. It must be terribly more difficult for you, in the midst of outrage, to forget for a moment that the bastions of our dignity are forever in shadow. Your courage in the face of this oppression, your faith in the dignity of mankind, your love for the people about you and for your troubled land -- all of these things led me to write this note to you and to assure you that other men in other places know your value, honor your integrity and cherish your work.

Sincerely,
Hy Schneider
Hy Schneider