

K11/17/14/5

20, Van der Stel Street
Stellenbosch, 11th June 1973.

Dear Mr. Paton,

It is Saturday-afternoon and a few moments ago I finished reading your Hofmeyr biography. It is indeed an honour to be able to write to you and to tell you how very much I enjoyed reading your account of this great man's life and works.

The book seems to be written with an immense love and understanding for the complex human being Hofmeyr undoubtedly must have been and while reading your book Hofmeyr gets "under one's skin".

I find specially moving the manner in which you succeed to portray Hofmeyr's relative optimism and hope for the UP before the May 1948 election on the one hand, as against the threatening and unavoidable approach of the NP during that same period on the other hand.- It reminds me of our relative optimism and hope for the future when happenings and speeches in Stellenbosch seem to be pointing to an opener mind and more awareness amongst the students as against the no doubt overwhelming threat of our Black people demanding their rights and voicing their grievances. How wise Hofmeyr was at that time in history to want S.A. to take as its daily approach the motto "go forward in faith, not in fear".-

Thank you for a truly great book.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs.) *Jetty M. Degenaar*
