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'Golden Journey' ,
23 Cherwell Park Caravans,
Mill Lane, Old Marston,
Oxford , England .
24 February 1965

Dear Mr.Paton ,

I didn't know whether or not you would be getting the cuttings from our newspapers and the enclosed from Oxford Mail 'Diary' was so good and the photo original of myself, books and pottery so clear and detailed that I couldn't resist sending them on to you. The review was the evening following and I have only one copy of that so will type it out as a postscript for you. Of course I only held the 'Hofmeyr' book for the photo and Mr. Don Chapman, who interviewed me, said he would try to get me a 'review' copy from the Univ. Press. And Hubert Secretan has offered to lend me his copy. But, of course, I shall get myself a copy in due course whatever happens; I expect you have to foot the bill for these 'buckshee' books yourself! Herewith review copy while I have space. From 'Oxford Mail' 18 Feb. 1965

HOFMEYR by Alan Paton. O.U. Press, 58/-

"Even in South Africa's age of generals, Jan Hofmeyr, who had never been a ^{soldier} ~~general~~, was one of the outstanding politicians. To some his liberal ideas were a threat to the white man's very existence; to others he was the country's greatest hope. Now the author of Cry the Beloved Country has tackled the difficult task of writing a biography of this strange genius who was a university principal at 24. Paton is a superb storyteller. He brings Hofmeyr to life clearly and sympathetically and holds the interest throughout the 532 pages. But as a historian his touch is less sure. He is too personally involved in the racial struggle to be properly detached. This involvement also makes it difficult for him to appreciate why Hofmeyr the liberal could not become Hofmeyr the Liberal. Why, despite his Oxford education and his rigid Christian beliefs, he could not completely shed his prejudices. But the book puts Hofmeyr in perspective. The man whom most South Africans regarded as a cold fish and whom they blamed for losing the 1948 ^{election} to the Nationalists is now revealed as a lonely man who could never have chosen any path other than the one he followed. " N.K.

There is is and trust you will like it. It reads fairly well to me. Trusting you and yours are well and in good spirits. We are much as usual and looking forward to sunnier weather after a green Winter (up to now!)

Yours very sincerely,

(Albert King)

'Babu'

Albert King Babu

P.S. Have just remembered. We have a little book called 'Beautiful Women' which I don't often look at, with a few odd photos inside the covers. I took it down the other day and who should be smiling out at me but Jan Hofmeyr. (a small snap taken of him at a S.A. camp.) He would have been highly amused at this, the sort of thing I used to tell him about.

AK.