

840  
P01/11/2/25/275

Somerset East,  
9. 7. 60.

My dear Alan,

You will have written me off as one who pays no attention to his friends' letters, and I shan't blame you. The main reason, though it is not really an adequate one, has been trouble at home with my wife seriously ill. Only now is the very dark shadow lifting a little. She has had what really is a sort of stroke. It didn't induce any paralysis, but the mind went haywire and for some weeks she was in great distress under the unshakable conviction that she was the object of a general conspiracy led by the 'devilish ingenuity' of her husband to deceive her about everything. Even the letters coming from the daughters in Fiji and Lisbon - usually the events of the week - were a pack of lies made up by me, and she wouldn't read them or listen to them. Mercifully we live in the quiet spot that you know.

But now, thank God, I can report that she is practically herself again and the nightmare is over. She has recovered far more fully than the doctor expected, and, while it is always possible that other similar collapses of brain cells may occur, with the gradual hardening of arteries, it is again possible for her to live pretty much as usual, and with a still deeper sense of God's goodness to us.

I have also, during the past three months, been editing the "S.A. Outlook" again, since Shepherd is still overseas and Kerr, who was deputising for him, is also over there.

Enclosed is what Gerdener writes. Evidently he has taken some trouble to help, by going over minutes etc. I doubt if there is any more evidence to be got.

I think re "Delft" that the evidence of Kate Neethling is as dependable as anybody else's. She lived in that road for most of her life, I think, and she is now in her later eighties, I fancy.

*So she goes back a long way.*

I must run off on another errand,

As always,

O.B.