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20th January, 1965.

Dear Theo,

You will remember (HOFMEYR, page 45) how Hoffie told the Union, according to ISIS, that he threw up his cap at the news of General Botha's defeat. I suggested that the explanation was that Hoffie was talking of 1902, when at the age of 8, in childishness and ignorance, he had thrown up his cap because Botha had been defeated. I mentioned in a footnote that you had suggested this explanation. Oliver Schreiner questions the explanation. According to him, an Afrikaans-speaking boy, even in Cape Town, would not have acted in this way. He thinks it more likely that it referred to the defeat of Botha by Fitzpatrick. He thinks that Cape Town would have been very strongly pro Fitzpatrick. He asked me to put this to you again for your opinion. I must say that I do not favour this second explanation, even though I thought of it as a possibility. In 1902 HOFFIE was 8; in 1910 he was 16. However I would be glad to know if you have any further thoughts on the subject.

I shall also be glad to hear from you in due course your opinion of the book.

Yours sincerely,