

PAGDEN & CHRISTIAN.

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ELGAR BELLHOUSE PAGDEN.
ANTHONY WALTER DANVERS HANLEY,
ASSISTED BY
ROYDON XAVIER PARKIN, B.A.

YOUR REF. _____

PERMANENT BUILDINGS,
60, MAIN STREET,

PORT ELIZABETH, S.A.



WHEN CALLING WITH REFERENCE
TO THIS MATTER PLEASE ASK FOR

October 11th, 1951.

Mr. Pagden

A. Paton, Esq.,
P.O. Anerley,
South Coast, Natal.

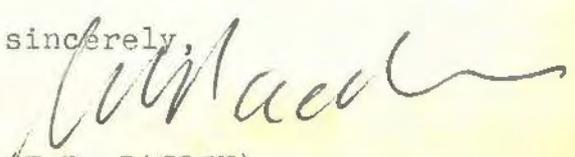
Dear Mr. Paton,

Thanks for your letter of the 28th September which I received on my return from Johannesburg on Tuesday. I am sorry that you will not be coming through Port Elizabeth on this occasion but hope that you will let me know if and when you are able to come at a later date, as I would certainly like you to talk to the Institute. I shall accordingly be grateful if you will make a point of letting me know when you are available.

As regards your Hofmeyr Book, there is very little that I can tell you except that of which you are no doubt already aware. There are perhaps two aspects which will confirm what you already know about him. Firstly, his extreme naturalness and ability to adapt himself to the more or less homely atmosphere of an ordinary family such as ours, which includes children of all ages, and a complete absence of any fuss or formality. Secondly, he had a feeling of tremendous personal loyalty to General Smuts and I am afraid in many ways this rather over-shadowed his own personal leanings in some respects. This was particularly obvious when I discussed with him the possible formation of a Liberal Party which I feel certain he knew should be created. He was, of course, the obvious and, in fact, only Leader of such a Party but he was precluded from taking this action mainly, I feel, by his personal loyalty to Smuts and through Smuts to the United Party. I personally feel it was a tragedy that he never did this, although possibly he might have done so had he lived.

Kind regards to your wife and yourself.

Yours very sincerely,


(E.B. PAGDEN)