

204/17/55-35  
31st March, 1966.

Dear Robin,

It is with some shame that I tell you that I have just discovered your letter of 3rd March, 1965.

I have to thank you for the three reviews which you sent me, I also have to thank you for your remarks about the book itself. I too was fascinated with the "Mush, mush" correspondence, otherwise I should not have made so much use of it. But there on the other hand, there were people who were bored by it, such as Judge Blackwell, whom I would expect to be bored by such a thing largely because he would not understand it.

I am very glad of your understanding of this work. As you write, the portrait is "Warts and All", but the affection is certainly not lacking.

You would have been interested in the review by Solly Sacks in London who wrote that he did not see why such a great book had been written about such a little man.

I accept your correction of the word Farquharson's and if there is a second edition I shall correct it to Farquharsons'. It is quite clear from Hattie's diary that he found a refuge at Clan Chattan.

I was in Johannesburg last week and many people spoke to me of you. I had heard that you were not well and I sincerely hope that you are now fully recovered.

Beth Derrie and I send our warmest wishes to you.

Yours ever,

DIC 15  
COPY

3m - 6m  
= 3m.

TELEPHONE 51355  
(direct line 62611)

CHURCHILL COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE  
3 March 1965



Dear Alan,

There has been a profuse display of Hofmeyr in the Cambridge bookshops for some weeks, but the reviews have only now started to flow. I enclose three that I happened to see.

It is a lovely book. Some of the people I've discussed it with think that the highpoint comes with the treatment of the Stibbe affair. I was particularly fascinated with the "Mush, mush" correspondence. The portrait is "warts and all", but your love comes through very clearly from the book as a whole. I don't think there's any passage with which I can imagine Hoffie wanting to quarrel (unless, that is, his mother were about). It is given to few to have such a biography, and by such a biographer; there can be no doubt that it will stand as definitive.

Two small points:

(a) I remember particularly the support he gave in the 'forties to the National Union of S A Students, and the extent of his influence on its progress towards an anti-segregationist position. This was another instance of his close sympathy with young people, and the response to it.

(b) In your admirable account of his sporting friendships I suspect there is an apostrophe misplaced. You write ... at the Farquharson's. Now, my father was not the Farquharson (of Farquharson), head of the clan, as you imply. Do you not mean either at Farquharson's (singular) or at the Farquharsons' (plural)? Carping aside, I was much touched by your description of the undemanding refuge he so often found at Clan Chattan.

Liberal exiles have a new focus in London at the New African office, 12a Goodwin Court, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (TEMPLE BAR 4283). The slow-grinding mills of Pretoria, after a month's deliberation, decided not to renew my passport; so I have applied to the Home Office for a certificate of identity, and hope with it to visit America next month for a mathematical conference. At Churchill I am Senior Research Fellow in management studies, much concerned with decision-making in economics and politics. But I miss you (and 15,999,999 others) pretty badly.

Affectionately,

Robin

Robin Farquharson.