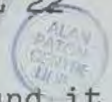


Feb 20th 1965

215 East Dulwich Grove London S.E 22

PC/117/35-68

Rep 16/8/65



Dear Alan

I have just finished reading 'Hofmeyr' and have found it intensely interesting. I think you have made a very good job of a difficult subject. It has confirmed to me, as I said in one of my letters to you, that there were sides of J.H.H of which throughout our long friendship I remained almost wholly ignorant. Just as one example I do not remember ever hearing mention of the Stibbe affair, though I visited him in S.A only about three years afterwards when the echos of it must still have been going round. Of the political side I knew a good deal from his letters but it is fascinating to read the whole complex story in detail. One cannot help feeling something of the inevitability of Greek tragedy about his life. Incidentally it has recalled to me some of the people I met all those years ago, such as the Rheinalt Jones', Currey and Cluver at Stellenbosch (not I think the one you mention).

The book should be of great interest in S.A and I hope it will be read here though probably only by a more limited public. I have not heard from Babh King for some time. I wonder if he has got hold of it. It would be interesting to hear his views. Incidentally it is a pity the block of the Radcot camp is so poor - I can't think why as it was a very clear print. O.U.P in Capetown asked my permission to send it to U.S.A where I gather an edition is contemplated. I agreed and hope I shall get the print back sometime. Well, Alan, thank you for a very moving book. I hope it will have influence in the long term.

Alec Churcher was here yesterday. He seems to be enjoying his job and incidentally to be able to do a good deal of Toc H work. He is due back your side early in March.

Yours ever

Hubert

P.S As I look to you for periodical news of S.A it occurs to me that I have said nothing of our affairs here. The trouble is that the welfare state mentality has penetrated all classes. Unless we can snap out of it, and I think we can, we are in for difficult times. I have been urging that at the jubilee Toc H should take a stand. The present government is at least trying to do something, which their predecessors didnt, but they have been pretty ham-handed in their measures and have done us no good abroad. They are badly handicapped by looking over their shoulders at the Trade Unions and, to some extent, by the inability of some of them to shake off doctrinal shibboleths which the march of events has outdated.

P.S.2. A small correction for your second edition. Wedderburn, who called himself Alister - not Alistair - though he lent a hand at times, was never President of the Club - see my notes.