

"Emandleni,"

P.O. Inanda.

March 15, 1955.

My dear Mr. Paton,

I should have written to you long before now to thank you for the part you played in the conversations with Mr. Hall. But I <sup>am in</sup> the queer role of having to be a writer and a labourer at one and the same time---more of the latter than the former. And when the weather is as favourable as it is these days labour in the fields is all I can do. It is not a role I like, for there are better things I could <sup>do</sup>. But a man with my views on the colour question must pay the price of holding them in a country like South Africa.

The second thing I wanted to write about was your suggestion that we should together write a book on South Africa's colour problem. As I hinted to you, the idea appealed to me tremendously. It is the most constructive piece of work any two men can do for South Africa at the moment. A work like that will certainly place South Africa's problems in clearer light. I am not a prophet but locally it would mark a turning-point in Afro-White relations. It is the sort of thing I would like to write. Mind you there is also the possibility of making a few extra shillings---which I need very badly these days. Do you not think it would be good if we met one of these days to give a little more shape to our ideas?

I cannot say when I shall be next in town. But if I do go down I shall phone you to see if we cannot take your suggestion a little farther. Now, you need not wait for the phone call. You could return your reply as soon as possible as I do not know for certain when

I shall be next in town.

It might be of interest to you to learn that I received a letter from Patrick Duncan in which he was telling me that some of the things I had written to him had brought him nearer the Liberal Party. He informed me that he would be writing to you suggesting the formation of a branch of the Liberal Party in the Free State. I thought that was very encouraging news. I cannot see any future for all of us in this country in any ideology other than that which will make it possible for all of us to live and let live. Whatever its shortcomings, in my opinion the Liberal Party is a move in the right direction.

With the kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

James H. Stewart

10  
Lynton Road,  
KLOOF.

21st March, 1955.

Dear Mr. Ngubane,

1. Good - we are going to write a book. Is it at all possible for you to come and spend a couple of days here? I do not think we could really work it out properly by meeting at the International Club. I have no doubt whatever that it would bring you in a few shillings, and it would be wonderful if it were a turning point in Afro-white relations.
2. I received a letter from Patrick Duncan. There is nothing I want more than to see you and him in the Liberal Party. Can I send you an application form?
3. Bearing in mind what you once wrote to me, I must tell you that our University Committee meeting will not be held on March 30 but on some later date.
4. Have you got any further with your suggestion for holding a preliminary meeting of writers?
5. I am going to Johannesburg on Wednesday 23rd, returning on Thursday 24th. I shall be at home on Friday 25th. Saturday 26th is Graduation. I shall be at home all the next week. Could you spend a day, perhaps? I could meet you at the Pullman and see that you got back safely.

Yours sincerely,

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