



# Livingstone House



RHODES UNIVERSITY  
GRAHAMSTOWN  
SOUTH AFRICA

31st July, 1959.

Dear Mr Paton,

There have been several occasions since I saw you last January that I have been on the point of writing to you, usually about the political situation; but remembering how busy you were with your writing, and having a lot on my hands as well, I never did so. And, incidentally, I want to say how very much I valued the discussion we had, and the time you gave to it.

There is one main thing that prompts me to write to you now: my Professor, the Rev. Dr Maxwell, and my Warden and Tutor, the Rev. L.A.Hewson, have been encouraging me to try to further my studies overseas, and they, together with the Rev. Dr Webb, have been trying to secure a scholarship for me, but they have not succeeded. If you could suggest any organisation which may be able to give me some financial assistance, I should be very grateful to you. There is every possibility of my being accepted by Boston University, U.S.A., for further study next year, and they have offered me a three-fourths tuition bursary. But I still require a minimum of £650 to get over there and to see me through my first year, after which I should be able to meet most of my expenses from part-time work; and the only asset I possess, apart from my books, is a life insurance policy with the Old Mutual for £1,000 with profits, which I have had for six years. My parents are unable to help me in any way, as my father has been blind since 1957. In case you should require any further information, I enclose, with Professor Maxwell's permission, a copy of a letter which he wrote to Boston University on my behalf; and both he and the Rev. Mr Hewson have expressed their willingness to furnish any further information and/or recommendations which may be necessary. If you are able to help or advise me in any way, I shall be most deeply grateful.

I have not heard or read anything about your play on Livingstone, other than that it was going to be performed up north. I remember you telling me about it, and do hope that it was well received. You also mentioned that you were working on J.H.Hofmeyr's biography; will it be in print soon, now that Mrs Hofmeyr has died?

So Professor Keppel-Jones has left the country; what is your opinion of the reasons he gave for leaving? He has been so terribly right in so many of his predictions, one cannot help wondering how many more of his prophecies will come

to pass. It is true that, as Christians, we should not be pessimists, but the prophet Amos, for instance, although he believed implicitly in the power of God, did not hesitate to proclaim the approaching catastrophe, which only national repentance would have averted. I fear that Amos' message is uncomfortably relevant to our situation, and feel impelled to proclaim it.

Do you think that the National Congress next year will change the Liberal policy to unqualified adult suffrage. I tend to favour the present policy, but understand that the Africans do not, and, as Mr Duncan said when ~~I~~ I spoke to him after a meeting in Grahamstown some time ago, education and the social graces do not affect their political acumen.

There is depressing talk of the United Party trying to get rid of the "liberal" element in the party; it will be interesting to see what the result will be. What is your opinion of the South African Bond, and the S.A. National Patriotic Workers' Association? Do you not consider these, the protests of the Afrikaner intellectuals, and the Japie Basson episode, to be encouraging signs? One of the things I hope I shall be able to do if I get to America, is to view the situation more objectively than perhaps I have been able to do from here.

With my kindest regards and best wishes to both Mrs Paton and yourself,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Kenneth Carstens.*

Kenneth Carstens.

23 Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal.

16th September, 1959.

Dear Mr. Carstens,

I must apologise for not having written to you before but I have been away in Rhodesia and was quite unable to cope with my correspondence when I returned.

It is with regret that I am unable to help you with any advice in regard to the bursary. I quite frankly do not know of any organisation which would give you financial assistance, this being rather out of my field. I fear that most of my contacts are political or semi-political ones.

Yes, Professor Jones has left the country, and you ask my opinion of the reasons he gave for leaving. No one could possibly doubt that he is a very intelligent man, but I think that once he had decided to leave the country, he should have kept his mouth shut.

I think it possible that the National Congress next year will decide on unqualified adult franchise. It seems to me that that was one of the things that a man like Keppel-Jones could not face. So far as I know he did not have one African friend, and that of course makes a big difference. He chose to be with his own group - that is why he has gone to Canada. I would imagine that Canada is one of the most stable countries in the world. It is white and not likely to become coloured. It is rich, it is vast, and it is geographically as safe as any country in the world. It is a good country to choose if one decides to leave.

By now of course what you feared has come to happen, namely, the U.P. has thrown out its Liberals. I do not find this depressing, because I never thought that the U.P. was a forward-looking organisation. Apart from the question of African Nationalism, it shares I believe all the other characteristics of the Nats.

I sincerely hope you will be able to get to America and see these things from a distance.

Yours sincerely,

**Collection Number: AD1169**

**Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:* Johannesburg

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