



Saint Ann's Church
(THE DIOCESAN CHURCH)

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October 30, 1959

A. S. Paton, Esq.
23 Lynton Road,
Kloof,
Natal, South Africa

Dear Mr. Paton:

I must, first of all, apologize for the long delay in replying to your letter which contained the manuscript on Trevor Huddleston. Unfortunately, I was away at the time of its arrival and when I returned it was to find that the publishing-editor in charge of the volume had undergone a sudden and severe operation, which threw him out of circulation for some weeks — hence my delay in writing you as I first of all had to receive his decision regarding the draft. We were most intrigued with your subjective treatment of Trevor Huddleston but the editor has pointed out that in a volume of this nature a more objective approach would be preferable; in other words, while Huddleston is well known to a small and literate group in this country very few of the general public know much about him other than his name, and his activities in the race crises of South Africa. In which case, of course, we think it would be wise to tell them who he was, what he was, where he came from; added to which it would be effective to see him in action amid the racial tensions of that area of Africa in which he lived and made his Witness.

Personally, I always think it rather difficult to describe to people by letter what exactly is required and so I am taking the very great liberty of sending you, under separate cover, a copy of Daniel-Rops "The Heroes of God" in which he gives eleven studies of great Christian characters through history. Incidentally, the projected volume to which you are contributing is to be, more or less, a sequel to The Heroes of God, which was a best seller in France and is also selling well in this country. You will see that the portraits are largely objective although, of course, any adequate study would also contain subjective reactions to any personality that has accomplished anything worthwhile in our time. For our purposes, the publisher points out, it would be desirable for the article to be about twice the length of the draft you sent, i.e., approximately 5,000 words.

I must say that I should normally be rather diffident about indicating so precisely what we require but your generous note, stating that you are only too willing to adapt it on the lines we indicate, has given me courage and I do look forward to receiving the final study. By the way, owing to several of the studies coming in late it is not really required until the end of January or at your earliest convenience. Please don't think that I have in any way forgotten about the initial payment but owing to the illness of the publisher which handles these things the contract has yet to be signed. You will be interested to know that I had dinner at the Harvard Club in New York with Tubby Clayton two nights ago. He is visiting this country briefly and asked me, very emphatically, to convey to you his most affectionate regards. He is delighted that you are one of the contributors to this book although he is quite unaware that he is also one of the subjects.

Again, please excuse my unavoidable delay and with all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Melville Harcourt

Melville Harcourt

MH:tsl

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

4th November, 1959.

Dear Canon Harcourt,

I am afraid I shall not be able to write the kind of article you are looking for at the moment, as I am working against time on a biography, and it would take me a week or more to write the kind of article required. It is for this reason alone that I decline. Otherwise I would have found it a pleasure to do the work.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

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