

2687 Yale Station, A1.16
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn. U.S.A.
December 26, 1933.

Dear Mr Jabavu,

I have just received from Professor Loram a brochure giving the particulars of a very important Conference to be held in South Africa next year under the auspices of the New Education Fellowship at Capte Town and Johannesburg. I have no doubt you are aware of the fact that this is a Conference at which native opinion should be adequately represented, especially as the subject of Native Education is going to occupy the attention of the gathering for a considerable time. When Dr E.G. Malherbe was here at Yale a few months ago, he urged upon us the necessity of returning to South Africa in time to attend this important, and all those of us who are from South Africa are making arrangements to attend.

My point in writing you is to offer my services as one of the delegates of the South African Native Teachers Federation. I have no doubt that at your last meeting, you elected a new Executive of which I am not a member, but that will not disqualify me, I hope, as a delegate of the Federation. My present plan is that I hope to arrive in South Africa on the 9th of July, will thence proceed to Kimberley for a short stay and pass on to the Johannesburg Conference which begin on July 16th and at which I gather Native Education is to be fully discussed. I realise that this is perhaps too early for you to take up the question of representation with the affiliated Teachers Associations, but as I am so far away I thought that it would expedite matters if I wrote you in sufficient time for you to send me a reply before the final date for registration of delegates.

I am enjoying my work at Yale immensely, and am taking advantage of my sojourn here to learn as much as possible of America and the Americans generally. I am going up to Canada this week to attend the Canadian-American S.C.A. Conference to be held at Hamilton, Ontario, and to speak on South African Problems. Early in the spring we are going on a tour of the Southern States to study the Negro Problem at first hand. I am looking forward to the Southern States where one will come into touch again with the racial discrimination which is conspicuous by its absence in places like Yale.

I meet quite a lot of your friends in different parts of the States, especially among those who attended the Buffalo Conference at which you represented us so well.

Let me not trespass any further upon your valuable time, but conclude by wishing Mrs Jabavu and yourself and family the best compliment of the Season. Give my kind regards to Mrs Bokwe when you meet her. Tell her I am enjoying the snow of America; it has been snowing all day today and we are having great fun walking about in the snow.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am

Yours sincerely,

J. K. Matthews