

12th March, 1956.

CONFIDENTIAL

Rt. Rev. C.J. Ferguson-Davie,
121 Royston Road,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

My dear Bishop,

Thank you for your letter of March 7 in which you wish me success in the new responsibilities I have undertaken. I was invited by Council to take over the Acting Principalship from the date of Professor Dent's departure from Fort Hare (i.e. December 3rd 1955) until June 30th, 1956, when Prof. Dent's retirement becomes effective, and I have been carrying on since December 3. I was away for a brief period during the latter part of December and the first week in January. In fact I spent part of a day in Maritzburg attending the wedding of Dr. Stewart Sililo, one of our old students and I saw something of Dr Maurice Peters, another old Fortharian.

Since my return we have been busy with admissions. The College re-opened on March 2 and all our Hostels are going to be full to capacity and we have a waiting list of qualified students. There seems to be a better spirit ~~abroad~~ among the students, but it is too early to say yet what sort of year we are going to have. The Governing Council met on March 9th and decided to invite Prof. D. Hobart Houghton to accept the Principalship of Fort Hare. We do not know whether he will accept. So in the meantime the matter is being treated as confidential.

Our children are all well. Two of them - John Knox and Frieda - are at the Non-European Medical School in Durban and Ethel, our youngest, is doing Matric at Healdtown. Shena is married and is living in Umtata where her husband is employed by the Bunga and Joseph is completing his articles with a firm of lawyers in Port Elizabeth. This means that our household has been much reduced in numbers.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J.K.M.