

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

24th June, 1959.

Dear Professor Matthews,

I write to convey to you the special thanks of the Executive of Convocation for coming to Durban to address us, and for giving us an address of such high quality. That was what we expected, and we were not disappointed. I shall be glad to receive your statement of expenses when it is convenient for you to send it, and the Registrar will send you a cheque in due course.

I note that you said in Cape Town that you thought Nyembezi's story better than CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY. I note also that Jan Rabie said that Frans Venter's SWART PELGRIM was better than CRY - . Unfortunately I am not able to read Nyembezi's book, but Venter's book is so different from mine that I really do not see how the word "better" can apply. It is my own belief that when one is comparing books, one must state specifically what categories one is using. I would expect Nyembezi's book to be superior to mine in its insight to African character and personality, but it would be interesting to know whether the book also surpasses mine in construction or poetic expression, for example, or in some other category. Still, I take it as a compliment when people use CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY as a yardstick.

Good wishes to yourself and Mrs. Matthews from us both.

Yours sincerely,

pp Alan Paton,
Dorrie Paton.