

Robben Island Isal,
Robben Island.

11th April, 1966.

Mrs H. J. Marguard,
Windsor,
Drapers Street,
Claremont, Cape.

Dear Mrs Marguard,

My "thank you's" are assuming a ritualistic pattern, I believe but they are sincerely meant. As I observed in my last letter ~~to you~~, I find myself ever beholden to you. Please accept another "thank you" for the jersey. It's a real yum-yum according to the "with it" colloquialism.

I was a little worried about the colour but I consoled myself with the thought that you wouldn't have made the purchase until and unless you had satisfied yourself that no suspicion of "un-South Africanism" could attach to the transaction.

We have had some soaking rains

(ruins)

since I last wrote to you and I find myself tempted to go in for gardening in a big way - I am, therefore, going to bother you for some seed. I shall be grateful for any vegetable seed you care to send but should like to have beetroots, carrots and onions included.

With regard to flowers I do not know what to ask for in the early years of my settlement. I tried verbenas, lupins, stocks the lot. The infant mortality was terrible: 100% still-births. I do not know whether the mistake was planting the seed in the ground instead of first cultivating it in boxes. But I am getting cultured again and should like to see some flowers growing. Could you please send me some seed. I leave the choice to you though I have a weakness for Zinnias and stocks.

I notice that there has been a gathering of the clan; and quite a mighty clan it is. but I wish to assure you that when I sent you the little piece about the expanding or growing jaw I had no idea that such a gathering was in the

(the)

offing and did not, therefore, intend the piece as a contribution.

Letters from my wife and Mr Wellington seem to suggest my letters - so far this year - have not been reaching them. I find the news pertaining and in the hope that you do not have a similar experience to report I should like to ask you please to assure my wife that I have written to her and that I am making favourable progress.

I write also to Benjie i.e. Mr Benjamin Popovich to inform him that I haven't received a single textbook to date. In case he is having an experience similar to that of the others will you please convey this information to him? As it is I am already five lessons behind with my work, and unless he receives this information the position will get worse.

incidentally, could you please, when you
send the seeds also send me a rake?
Yes, a rake, the garden instrument: All the
other instruments or, rather, implements, I have
but this one appears to be in very short
supply and yet it is the one I need most
for tidying "my place".
With best wishes to you and Mr
Marquand

I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
R. M. S. S. S. S.

P.S. I note that the witchdoctor has
been at it again. Has produced a
second book. Well, well. Has anybody
ever taken the trouble to interview the
gentleman or has any society ^{invited} asked him to
lecture on his subject? It should be
an interesting experience.
R. M. S.

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