

Mr Hayter

15 APRIL
1980

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE : 125TH ANNIVERSARY

MR HEADMASTER, MR JUDGE PRESIDENT, MR CHAIRMAN
OF COUNCIL, STAFF AND BOYS OF ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I WAS APPROACHED TO ADDRESS YOU THIS AFTERNOON I
ACCEPTED THE HONOUR READILY AND WITH A GREAT SENSE OF
FILIAL DEVOTION, FOR AS EVERYONE HERE PRESENT KNOWS, THE
INSTITUTION WHICH I REPRESENT LITERALLY SPRANG FROM THE
LOINS OF THIS COLLEGE AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS WITHIN ONE

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YEAR OF ITS HALF-CENTURY. GRAHAMSTOWN, BECAUSE OF ITS
STATUS AS HISTORICALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT SOUTH AFRICAN
COMMUNITY OUTSIDE THE WESTERN CAPE, LENDS ITSELF
ADMIRABLY TO THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES. THIS
ENGAGING HABIT IS NO MORE READILY APPARENT THAN AMONG
ITS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. ONE METHOD OF RECKONING
THE AGE OF RHODES UNIVERSITY, EXACTLY PARALLELING THAT
ADOPTED BY OUR SISTER, THE VENERABLE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE
TOWN, TAKES US BACK TO THE EVENT WHOSE PERIOD OF
CELEBRATION WE ARE INITIATING TO-DAY, THE FOUNDATION OF
ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE BY BISHOP ARMSTRONG IN 1855. BY
THIS RECKONING RHODES COULD ALSO CLAIM TO BE 125 YEARS

OLD AND THUS THE SECOND OLDEST UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICA. I AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY THEREFORE TO BE AMONGST YOU THIS AFTERNOON AND THUS TO INCREMENT THE RESPECTABILITY OF THIS METHOD OF RECKONING THE AGE OF RHODES. FORTUNATELY FOR ME I HAVE HAD ONLY TO TRAVEL ONE KILOMETRE TO BE WITH YOU, AND NOT THE FOOTSORE JOURNEY FROM UITENHAGE, REPRESENTING MORE THAN A KILOMETRE FOR EACH YEAR OF THE COLLEGE'S EXISTENCE, AS SOME AMONGST US HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN EMULATION OF ARCHDEACON MERRIMAN'S DETERMINATION TO BE PRESENT AT THE FOUNDATION CEREMONY.

OTHER METHODS OF RECKONING THE AGE OF RHODES UNIVERSITY TAKE US BACK TO THE INSTITUTION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN GRAHAMSTOWN IN 1878 AND THE INAUGURATION OF RHODES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IN 1904, BOTH EVENTS INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH ST ANDREW'S. WE ARE THUS ALWAYS IN THE PLEASING CIRCUMSTANCE OF NEVER HAVING UNDULY LONG TO WAIT FOR THE ADVENT OF YET ANOTHER HAPPY OCCASION FOR REMEMBRANCE. THUS IN 1978 WE PROCESSED IN SOLEMN ORDER FROM THE CENTENARY HALL TO THE RHODES GREAT HALL TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST EVENT, AND TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE PRESENT HEADMASTER. LAST YEAR WE

CELEBRATED THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF RHODES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. I SHOULD PERHAPS HAVE FORESEEN WHEN I BLITHELY ENGAGED MR NORTON FOR THE FIRST OF THESE OCCASIONS THAT THERE COULD PERHAPS HAVE BEEN A PRICE TO BE EXACTED.

SINCE BOTH THE HEADMASTER AND I HAVE SOME GROUNDING IN MATHEMATICS I MAY BE PARDONED FIRSTLY FOR OBSERVING THAT THAT MUCH MALIGNED SUBJECT, FAR FROM BEING PEOPLED SOLELY BY OTHER-WORLDDLY ABSENT-MINDED GENIUSES, IS AN EXCELLENT FOUNDATION FOR AN EXECUTIVE POSITION IN EDUCATION, AND SECONDLY FOR DIGRESSING FOR A MOMENT INTO THE PROPERTIES

OF NUMBERS. THE CAMBRIDGE MATHEMATICISM G H HARDY ONCE VISITED HIS GIFTED INDIAN PROTEGE RAMANUJAN IN HOSPITAL. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION HARDY QUOTED THE LICENCE PLATE NUMBER OF HIS TAXI AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS NOT A VERY INTERESTING NUMBER. "ON THE CONTRARY", OBSERVED RAMANUJAN "IT IS THE SMALLEST INTEGER THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED AS THE SUM OF TWO SQUARES IN TWO DIFFERENT WAYS." RAMANUJAN WAS SAID TO HAVE REGARDED THE INTEGERS AS HIS PERSONAL FRIENDS. CLEARLY THE NUMBER 125 WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF HIS FAVOURITES. FIRSTLY AND MOST OBVIOUSLY IT IS FIVE CUBED AND SECONDLY IT IS ONE EIGHTH OF THE WAY TO A MILLENIUM.

THE FIRST PROPERTY IS USEFUL IN GIVING US A SWIFT HISTORICAL ANALYSIS BY DIVIDING UP THE PERIOD INTO FIVE QUARTER-CENTURIES. THE INITIAL TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE FLEDGELING COLLEGE'S LIFE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ONE UNENDING STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE. THEN CAME THE FIRST PERIOD OF REAL CONSOLIDATION AND CALM, DOMINATED BY THE RESOLUTE FIGURE OF CANON ESPIN. IN THE SAME WAY THE SEMINAL FIGURES OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER-CENTURIES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THOSE OF CANON KETTLEWELL AND DR CURREY. THE FINAL QUARTER IS TOO RECENT HISTORY TO OCCASION COMMENT FROM AN OUTSIDER.

THESE THREE STALWART HEADS, ESPIN, KETTLEWELL AND CURREY, ACCOUNT FOR NO LESS THAN SIXTY YEARS OF THE 125 WHICH WE ARE CELEBRATING.

IF WE CONSIDER PAUL'S WELL KNOWN WORDS TO THE STRUGGLING CHURCH AT CORINTH "I PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED, BUT GOD GAVE THE INCREASE", THE ROLE OF PAUL IS CLEARLY PLAYED BY BISHOP ARMSTRONG, WHEREAS THAT OF APOLLOS MUST IN EQUITY BE DIVIDED AMONGST THESE THREE INDEFATIGABLE LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD WHO BORE THE HEAT AND BURDEN OF THE DAY. THAT GOD GAVE THE INCREASE WILL AS READILY

BE ACKNOWLEDGED TO-DAY AS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE BEGINNING, FOR ST ANDREW'S HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOURSQUARE IN ITS TRADITION AS A CHURCH SCHOOL.

WITHOUT THAT TRADITION AND ALL THAT IT IMPLIES, AND WITH WHICH THIS AUDIENCE IS SO FAMILIAR THAT IT NEEDS NO REPETITION HERE, THE FORWARD LOOKING PROPERTY OF THE NUMBER 125, NAMELY THAT IT IS ONE-EIGHTH OF THE WAY TO 1000, WOULD SURELY BE SUPREMELY ARROGANT IN ITS IMPLICATIONS. HUMAN INSTITUTIONS, EVEN THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS, ARISE, PREDOMINATE AND ULTIMATELY ARE DOOMED TO FADE. EVEN THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE VENETIAN

REPUBLIC WERE EVENTUALLY TO BE NO MORE. IT WOULD BE A BRAVE MAN, OR A GREAT ROYALIST, WHO WOULD STAKE HIS LIFE ON THE PROPOSITION THAT THE BRITISH MONARCHY WILL SURVIVE TO THE YEAR 2066 AND SO COMPLETE ITS MILLENIUM. ONLY TO THE CHURCH HAS IT BEEN PROMISED THAT THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. AS WE GIVE THOUGHT THEREFORE AS TO WHETHER ST ANDREW'S WILL STILL BE HERE FOR ANOTHER 125 YEARS, OR FOR A THIRD OR FOURTH SUCH INTERVAL, IT WOULD BE WISE TO RECALL THE WORDS OF THE LAWYER GAMALIEL AS THE COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM WAS CONSIDERING THE IMPUDENT PREACHING OF THE APOSTLES: "IF THIS IS MAN'S DESIGN OR

MAN'S UNDERTAKING, IT WILL BE OVERTHROWN; IF IT IS GOD'S, YOU WILL HAVE NO POWER TO OVERTHROW IT!" CERTAIN IT IS THAT IF THE COLLEGE DOES SURVIVE, IT WILL BE FIRMLY BACK TO ITS OLDEST TRADITIONS, NOW HAPPILY BEING REVIVED, OF MAKING ITS CLASSROOMS AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO CAN MEET ITS STANDARDS, REGARDLESS OF CONSIDERATIONS OF RACE AND ETHNIC ORIGIN.

ONE OF THE GREAT ADVANTAGES OF HAVING TO SPEAK ON A SUBJECT WITH WHICH ONE IS NOT VERY FAMILIAR IS THAT ONE LEARNS A GOOD DEAL IN THE PROCESS. IT HAS OFTEN BEEN ARGUED THAT THE BEST WAY TO FILL A GAP IN A TEACHER'S

OR LECTURER'S KNOWLEDGE IS TO REQUIRE HIM TO LECTURE ON THE SUBJECT-MATTER CONCERNED. THIS IS DOUBTLESS VERY GOOD FOR THE TEACHER, BUT PERHAPS A LITTLE HARD ON HIS AUDIENCE. MY KNOWLEDGE OF ST ANDREW'S WAS, TO PUT IT KINDLY, SKETCHY. WITH THE AID OF THOSE TWO EXCELLENT CHRONICLES OF HUMAN ENDEAVOUR, DR CURREY'S LABOUR OF LOVE AND THE OFFICIAL COLLEGE REGISTER, I WAS ABLE SOMEWHAT TO REPAIR THE DEFICIENCY. I AM STILL A LITTLE CONFUSED, BUT DEFINITELY AT A HIGHER LEVEL. AMONGST THE MORE ENTERTAINING PIECES OF INFORMATION WHICH I ENCOUNTERED WAS THAT ELECTRIC LIGHTING DID NOT COME TO

GRAHAMSTOWN AND THEREFORE TO ST ANDREW'S UNTIL 1924, AND THAT WATERBORNE SEWAGE WAS EVEN TARDIER IN MAKING ITS APPEARANCE, BEING DELAYED UNTIL 1936. IT IS REMARKABLE HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET THAT THE AMENITIES WHICH WE TAKE SO READILY FOR GRANTED, AND EVEN REGARD AS NECESSITIES WITHOUT WHICH WE WOULD TEND TO REGARD LIFE AS INCONCEIVABLE, HAVE ONLY BEEN GENERALLY AVAILABLE FOR AN INCREDIBLY SHORT SPAN. IT TAKES AN ANNIVERSARY SUCH AS WE ARE CONSIDERING TODAY TO REMIND US THAT OUR FOREFATHERS SURVIVED QUITE READILY, EVEN CHEERFULLY, WITHOUT SUCH BASIC CONVENIENCES. ONLY LAST YEAR WE CELEBRATED THE CENTENARY OF THE RAILWAY IN GRAHAMSTOWN. IT COMES

WITH SOMETHING OF A SENSE OF SHOCK TO REALISE THAT THE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS WITH WHICH BISHOP ARMSTRONG AND CANON MULLINS HAD TO CONTEND PROBABLY HAD MORE IN COMMON WITH THOSE EXPERIENCED BY AUSTRALOPITHECINE MAN THAN WITH WHAT WE ENJOY TODAY. MORE APPPOSITELY FOR TODAY'S EVENTS THE FIRST RUGBY MATCH AT ST ANDREW'S WAS PLAYED IN 1878, EVEN BEFORE THE TRAINS ARRIVED. THIS IMPLIES THAT RUGBY PERCOLATED FROM ITS ORIGINAL HOME TO THIS FARFLUNG CORNER OF THE EMPIRE WITH FAR GREATER RAPIDITY THAN SUCH MUNDANE COMFORTS AS TRAINS, ELECTRIC LIGHTS AND WATERBORNE SEWAGE. EVEN IN THOSE DAYS THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY CLEARLY HAD THEIR PRIORITIES IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY INSTRUCTED IN MY DUTIES THIS AFTERNOON. THE SHADOWS ARE LENGTHENING AND THE PIPEBAND AND THE OPPOSING RUGBY XV'S ARE ANXIOUS TO ENTERTAIN YOU. OUR VISITORS FROM GRAAFF-REINET ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF A COMMUNITY WITH TRADITIONS AS PROUD AS THOSE OF GRAHAMSTOWN, AND ARE NO DOUBT DETERMINED TO GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES, IN SPITE OF THE DISADVANTAGES OF A PARTISAN HOME CROWD KEYED UP BY AN ANNIVERSARY OCCASION. BEFORE, HOWEVER, I CEDE PRIDE OF PLACE TO THEM I AM ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF EVERY PERSON PRESENT WHEN I OFFER OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLLEGE ON THE COMPLETION OF 125 YEARS OF PROUD ACHIEVEMENT, SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL AND

PHYSICAL. ON YOUR BEHALF I EXPRESS THE WISH, NAY THE CONVICTION, THAT IN THE YEARS TO COME THE ACHIEVEMENTS WILL CONTINUE AND INCREASE. SUCH A HISTORY AS ST ANDREW'S, WITH ITS UPS AND ITS DOWNS, ENGENDERS A CONFIDENCE BORN NOT ONLY OF PREVIOUS TRIUMPHS BUT OF PREVIOUS DIFFICULTIES SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME, TO FACE THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE AND ITS VICISSITUDES, NO MATTER WHAT THEY BRING, WITH CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN GOD. "NEC ASPERA TERRENT": NOT EVEN THE ROUGH PLACES DETER. THAT THE CLIMATE OF THE EASTERN CAPE, LITERAL AND ECONOMIC, HAS ROUGH PLACES THERE IS NO DOUBT. NEITHER CAN A SON DOUBT THE DURABILITY OF HIS PARENT AND I END THIS

ADDRESS AS I BEGAN, BY REMINDING YOU THAT I SPEAK AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INSTITUTION LITERALLY A SON OF COLLEGE, AND MANY OF WHOSE SONS HAVE ALSO BEEN SONS OF THIS COLLEGE. AS WORDSWORTH REMINDS US "THE CHILD IS FATHER OF THE MAN". AT 125 ST ANDREW'S IS THE MOST VENERABLE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN THIS CITY OF EDUCATION, BUT IN TERMS OF THE BRITISH PUBLIC SCHOOL TRADITION FROM WHICH IT SPRINGS IT IS A MERE ADOLESCENT.

IT IS, HOWEVER, AN ADOLESCENT GROWN TO EARLY MATURITY IN A HARSH ENVIRONMENT, ALWAYS READY AND ABLE TO GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF ITSELF.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE SALUTE A PROUD SCHOOL WITH A GREAT PAST, AN IMPRESSIVE PRESENT AND A CHALLENGING FUTURE.

D S HENDERSON

15 APRIL 1980