

P.O.LOVEDALE.

14th July, 1938

re - Mr Mqhayi's Autobiography.

Dear Mfundisi,

I have just read through Mr Mqhayi's autobiography. To my mind it is a sincere account of the author's life in all its vicissitudes and fluctuations of fortune. — A life marked with varied service to his people, from a humble teacher to the foremost author and national poet of great repute.

A very interesting feature of the story is the happy contacts which the author was fortunate to make from time to time with some of the notable men of our time, both Native and European, including, Messrs Tengo Jabavu, ^{T.} Nqandela, D.D.T. Jabavu, Revs. P.J. Mzimba, J.K. Bokwe, W.B. Gubusana, and our ^{W.C.} Mr Bennie. The author pays a fine *and* (and to my mind) well-merited tribute to Mr Bennie — a man who has worked, and continues to work, so hard not only to improve but also to purify the Xhosa language and strengthen its literary value.

The literary quality and value of the book speak for themselves. Mr Mqhayi's versatility in the Xhosa language is so well known to those acquainted with his works, especially ITYALA LAMA WELE, that it needs no further comment here. Suffice it to say that the story in this book, as in the best that he has written, is told with considerable charm.

As a study, the value of the book lies not only in the clear and delightful account of the author's life and doings, but also in the interesting genealogical discussion ^{of his parentage} with which the autobiography opens. ~~I am sure~~ The book will appeal to all lovers of the Xhosa race as well as to those who love Xhosa literature for its own sake.

~~Yours sincerely,~~

J. Oldjohn.

14 hours.