

the time of Sobukwe's death, it was a friendship which 'began and grew in letters'. When the notorious 'Sobukwe clause' was added to the General Laws Amendment Act, so that Robert Sobukwe could be kept on Robben Island after completing his sentence, Nell wrote to him, although she did not know him, to ask if he would like her to send him the 'New Yorker' and 'The Listener'. He said that he would, and from there grew the friendship which was to be confirmed and cemented when Robert Sobukwe was finally released from gaol and banned to Kimberley, where Nell Marquard soon went to visit him.

These two, the Stanger bookkeeper and the Stellenbosch lecturer, achieved neither great fame, nor power, nor riches, but something greater than all three.

They showed that the primary constraint which the South African situation places on us all, the racially restrictive conditions into which we are born and in which we grow up, can be overcome - that the best South Africans are those to whom their own and anyone else's race has come to mean nothing. These are the kind of people we need for the future. □

## 2. POLES APART

In March Bishop Desmond Tutu was in the United States, predicting that South Africa would have a black Prime Minister within 10 years.

Meanwhile, back home on the hustings, an election campaign was being fought and the Herstigte Nationalist Party was saying that South Africa would never, ever, have a black Prime Minister, except over its dead body, and the Nationalist Party of Mr. P.W. Botha was saying much the same thing, even if less stridently in some constituencies than others.

That South Africa will have a black Prime Minister one day we have no doubt. The simple arithmetic of the populat-

ion of the country and the African continent decrees that. It is how that day arrives that matters.

When no Herstigte, and not many Nationalists, would dream of even saying a polite word to Bishop Tutu, whose conditions for peaceful change are perfectly reasonable, and a growing number of black people won't talk to any white person, Herstigte, Nationalist or anything else, what hope is there of avoiding the ghastly conflict even Mr. B.J. Vorster could see might come?

Not much, judging by the tone of the election campaign mounted by the various brands of Afrikaner Nationalism. □