

## GOEIE WENSE VAN DIE ADMINISTRATEUR

**M**ET innige dankbaarheid het ek verneem van die gloed en oortuiging wat by die Konferensie op 11 Februarie 1956, tot openbaring gekom het. Dit kan later blyk dat die besluit van die Konferensie om 'n Genootskap van Geskiedenis te stig 'n nuwe hoofstuk sal aankondig in die belangstelling van ons volk vir sy eie verlede. Met „verlede” bedoel ek nie slegs die loop van vorige eeue nie maar alles wat aan die gang was tot vanmôre-vroeg.

Die interessantste en nuttigste onderwerp wat enige mens kan bestudeer is die mens self. Waar kom hy vandaan? Hoe kon hy bly voortbestaan en opklim tot waar hy nou staan? En dan die groot vraag: Wat gaan van hom word? As die nuwe tydskrif vir geskiedenis kan help om ons hele volk te laat dink oor daardie vrae sal hy 'n groot diens verrig.

Ons grootste behoefte op hierdie gebied is op die oomblik dat dit mode sal word om te lees wat reeds geskryf is en steeds nog geskryf word oor ons geskiedenis. Ons volk raak agter by die navorsers en moet leer om meer belang te stel in wat gepubliseer word. As die nuwe tydskrif daarin slaag om die geskiedenis sy regmatige plek te laat inneem onder ons volk as gewilde leesstof sal hy sekerlik ons nasionale karakter veredel en moontlik 'n wending bring in die toekomstige lotgevalle van ons land.

**I**T was with sincere gratitude that I heard of the fervour and conviction revealed at the Conference on 11th February, 1956. Possibly subsequent events will show that the resolution of the Conference to establish a Historical Society will inaugurate a new era as far as the interest taken by people in their own past is concerned. Under „past” I do not include only what happened during the previous centuries but also current events up to sunrise this morning.

Man himself is the most interesting and useful subject of study. What is the origin of man? How did he succeed in surviving and reaching his present status? And then the important question: What is going to happen to him? If this new periodical can contribute towards making our nation ponder over these questions, it will have rendered a truly national service.

Our greatest need in this respect at the moment is that it should become fashionable to read what has already been published and is still being written on the subject of our past. Our readers are lagging behind the research workers and should learn to take an interest in what is published. If this new periodical can succeed in giving history its rightful place in the reading matter of our nation, it will certainly ennoble our national character and possibly influence the future destiny of our country.

Wm. NICOL.