

Château les Pleignes.

Grèz-sur-Loing

S et M.

Dec 29. 1933.

Dear Lord Sandwich -

Before the war a few people crossed my path whose ideals evoked considerably my interest in them. One of these people was you, and I have often recalled a chat or two which we had round my camp fire, when you asked me to superintend your proposed undertaking of a "Little Commonwealth". I could not accept, as I was trying out some other schemes, but I often wondered how it fared. I suppose, however, that the war (the great shatterer of lives and ideals) put a stop to you as to my undertakings. For myself this great upheaval was a sort of nightmare of disillusionment and when it was over, I bought a cottage and 100 acres of woodland in the western (unpopulated) part of the New Forest, which I still have, and tried to carry out a mental overhaul in conditions where external peace at least reigned. This proved salutary in many ways and before long I found my little property did not afford me sufficient scope for my enthusiasm, and I gladly accepted the management of the Westlake estate (near by) when this was offered to me, and continued in charge till the owner's death & the sale in lots of the property.