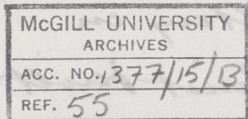


Westminster Palace Hotel
London Jan. 8. 93



My dear Walter,

I am to thank
you for your long letter received
a few days ago, in which
you give some account of
your mode of life at Sorau,
& am glad to know that
you find it fairly comfortable
& interesting. I am still very
busy here, with little or no
time for anything but work in
hand, but after a week or
perhaps two weeks, hope to
be less fully occupied & have
a chance to give a portion of
time to other matters. So far

I have not been able to
 consider the question of date
 of return. We have been
 finding what the newspapers are
 pleased to call a "hyperborean"
 winter, but in regard to cold
 it has not been very bad,
 except in the very large rooms
 in the Foreign Office where
 most of our work is done &
 which it seems scarcely
 possible to warm with a grate
 fire, though it contains an
 exceedingly large one. The fog
 & smoke too, however, have
 been excessive, & everything is dirty
 to the last degree. Several
 days it has been necessary to
 use candles or gas all day

It seems now settling in
for snow, but the first snow
is a cold drizzle with
much wind & dirt everywhere.

Today, Sunday, I have been let
out of the White & then for a
big short walk.

Last Sunday I spent with
Sir Richard Webster. With a
couple of the loyal gentlemen in
connection with the case I went
down to his place at Cranleigh,
about six by miles from London,
& on the northern slope of
the Weald. We left on Friday
evening & got back Monday,
spending most of the time with
various items of work which
required attention. Sir R. has

a beautiful house which is new
 & built entirely by himself & after his
 own plans. Everything to the minutest
 details is perfectly arranged &
 systematized. He has a little electric
 plant of his own by which the house is
 lighted & even a water driven to
 blow the organ bellows. Electric
 bells & an electric clock which
 goes from year to year without
 winding, the power being derived
 from copper & zinc plates buried
 in the earth. In fact he is the

most systematic man I ever saw.
 In each of the bedrooms is a
 printed card giving the hours of
 breakfast, lunch etc, hours when
 letters are sent to post, when
 letters are delivered etc. I can
 quite see his system would please
 you, but I think it is a little too
 precise for comfort - Yours George