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PINNOCKS
20A THE STREET
ULEY, DURSLEY,
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GL11 5TE

18th November 1999

Dear Michael,

Katharine and I very much enjoyed our visit to Newark yesterday and the kind hospitality, excellent lunch, tour of the house, and a marvellous November day, which enabled us to enjoy the wonderful view from the house. Thank you and Bob for all the trouble you took to entertain us.

Last night I spoke with my two surviving sisters on the phone, and this refreshed all our memories. I enclose some more "recollections" on a separate sheet. How I came to forget "she" I cannot think!

It may be difficult for your generation to understand the extent of the social revolution brought about by the 1929 Financial Crisis, and the slow recovery, which was dashed by W.W.II, with rationing and high taxation, and after 1945 the Financial mismanagement making a bad situation worse, so that it was not until 1955 things were improving. By then many large houses had been sold by their owners often being put to other uses. Dursley lost its character as a one time Market Town and became a manufacturing centre, which has now run into trouble. The decline in farming profitability started about 1922 and by 1930 a farm could be worth less than an ingoing on change of tenancy. Only W.W.II. put farmers on a good footing, which has now become very slippery. A..... makes it difficult now to re-assess Mrs. Clutterbuck's social life and character, and I would dearly like to know how she was brought up and how she and Daddy spent their lives together. One did not ask such things when I was young. Moreover being much the youngest of the family, and of many cousins, it was often assumed I knew things which I had never been told or, if I had been, I did not understand.

My sister, Isobel, is coming here on Saturday and if she has remembered more I will ring you up. I do think it would be worth your while to contact Kitty Cobham. Hunters Care Centre is a little beyond the double roundabout on the Cirencester-Bisley Road opposite the turning onto the Fosse Way on the South side of these crossroads.

I suppose you have never discovered Mrs. C.'s parentage or the position in life from whence she came. It would be interesting to know if her predecessors had Military or Commercial interests or connections with India. I remember seeing a cutting from a Newspaper which she had kept reporting Major Power had been complimented on the condition of the Military Hospital which he was in charge of. I also recollect she said it

was a good thing for boys to learn boxing, it taught them to keep their tempers. Perhaps that says it all!

We very much hope that you and Bob will pay us a visit. This is garden which is at its best in Spring and early Summer but we nearly always have something of interest to show.

Yours sincerely,
Francis.

P.S. I have spelt the Miss Hiley's name wrongly. I think it was as in the last sentence.