

TELEPHONE  
WHITEHALL 4843  
TELEGRAMS  
S. HELLENIST (PICCY)

THE ATHENÆUM  
PALL MALL S.W.1

11 To rex Villas  
W.S.

12/9/46

Dear Noel,

I'm sorry to have been so long in answering your last two letters, but have been worrying about, & then wasn't much to say until we knew how the sale went. Things looked hopeless when I was at Ten-yr-old. The only enquirer had been a woman who wanted some large & quite flat paddocks as a site for rear & train 30 grey hounds. Mr Stewart was a pleasant surprise. £7000 isn't bad considering the house is not only disastrously inconvenient, but also worrying damp. Mary says their life there has been one long struggle with winding wet.

I had about 3 wild days work on the wine. All poor Aunt Ida's very touching, wine lists with their confusions & misspelt names had been made without reference to the cellar itself, beyond asking Mary to count bottles in the lower

