



From
Sir James Colquhoun Irvine,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

F.W. Lovejoy Esq.
Eastman Kodak Company,
Rochester N.Y.

Dear Mr Lovejoy,

Many thanks for taking me into your confidence in the project you have in mind to bring out a human biography of the late Mr Eastman; this confidence I shall of course preserve as completely as you would wish. Unfortunately I had very few contacts with Mr Eastman and I greatly fear that the small amount of information I could contribute would be of very little use to you; but here it is, for what it is worth, and at least it shows how this modest engaging man sought out occasional stray friendships and did not allow them to lapse.

In the summer of 1928 I attended the Institute of Chemistry meeting held at Evanston, Ill., and when there I received a personal letter from Mr Eastman inviting me to Rochester for a week-end and pressing me strongly to fix on one particular date. I had never met Mr Eastman and I was touched by the warmth of his invitation which was promptly accepted. In his reply he asked me to join a particular train and

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he went on to express the hope that I would allow him to make the arrangements for my travelling in comfort and I need hardly say that I was well cared for on my journey. Arrived at Rochester, I found myself a member of a very interesting house-party including Mr Edison and General Pershing whom I had known on this side during the Four Years War. In the few days we spent together, I saw much of Mr Eastman and we had many talks - partly scientific, for these were the days when colour cinematography was in its infancy, but mainly on music, the arts, and the diffusion of what (for want of a better name) we call "Culture". He impressed me greatly - a man with a burning idealism and desperately anxious to help others, but finding it a little difficult to break through a natural shyness. I never saw him again, but we kept up a correspondence until shortly before his death and I mention the fact to show that he seemed to cling to human relationships and understanding else he would not have taken the trouble to keep in touch with one who was really a stranger to him and who lived 3000 miles away.

what I have to say will be of little use to you but I send it in the recollection of a fragrant memory of a man who impressed me deeply.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

J. G. Irvine

Irvine, James Colquhoun