To His Eminence
The Most Reverend Henry Edward Cardinal Manning,


My dear Lord Cardinal,

I am inexpressibly relieved by your Eminence’s statement that you have not attributed to me, as I was led to suppose that you had, the origination of the report – the falsehood, as I heartily believe it to be – which was published in the “Whitehall Review”.

I ought to add that I am confident that the friend who gave me the impression was himself also under the impression that such was your Eminence’s belief, and that he communicated the matter to me simply as a grave duty of friendship, for I know no one who has a more sincere respect for your station and character, or who more habitually abstains, even in the most intimate intercourse, from [...] and [...].

Permit me to hope that, if the apparent change in your Eminence’s manner to me arose from any other cause, the feeling which produced such change may be removed by my sincere assurance that, notwithstanding whatever may have been said of me by unknown mischief makers who are neither your Eminence’s friends nor mine, though perhaps preferring to be friend of both, I am really your Eminence’s respectfully, gratefully and affectionately

Coventry Patmore

_Transcription developed by Cheryl Timms Strauss_