My dear Mr Smith

I have begged Mr John Anderson to allow me to answer your kind letter, for which he desires me to offer you his best thanks.

I am happy to be able to give you as favourable an account of my Father and Mother as the distressing circumstances in which we are now placed can possibly admit.

I am convinced that you, to whom I am so much indebted for your kindness[,] will fully console with us under this melancholy calamity.

Mrs John Anderson has been in rather a delicate state of health, but is I hope daily improving. The accounts from London from Mr Anderson are very good, and afford my mother great comfort.

I reached this place from Harrow on Sunday the 29th: at about 12 oclock, four hours previous to this sad event.

I must bed to excuse my omission in not having written to you during your long absence. I have no excuse to offer, and must trust to your clemency; [you] may write at your leisure, and I hope this may revive a correspondence.

Believe me Dear Sir
Ever yours sincerely.
H.E. Manning

[Transcription developed by Jared Beverly]