Dear [Mr] John Milford.

Many thanks to you for your thought of me in sending me a New [Y]ears’ Gift. It was a fit appendix to our last conversation, for when we look at the Church upon earth, it seems as if peace and love could be found no where but in the land of Dreams. And yet I have a growing belief that besides that blessed “land which is far off,” there is another very near where we may “see the King in His beauty.” Some how year by year the reality of the inner world, of which we were speaking, seems nearer. And the way to it lies through the Altar: or indeed the Altar is the very centre of it. The more we live then surrounded by the Heavenly Court, the less we shall be troubled by the controversies which howl about in this outer world. I hope you will not let any one disturb you with these things. Life is very short.

I am a poor helper, but if you ever think I can pray write & ask what you will.

My affectionate regards for Mrs Milford. It is always great pleasure to me to see either much more both of you. Believe me: always affectionately yours.

H.E. Manning.

[Transcription developed by Jared Beverly]