My dear Sir,

   It would have given me sincere pleasure to accept your kind invitation to Little Green but that I am expecting my home to be full with my sister & her family who have not been with me for many years, I must[,] therefore, forego the pleasure it would have given me, and I fear that in doing so, it must be with the hope of coming to you, if please God, we live & are well in the brighter days of spring. I am beginning to feel the Climate, & to keep close under my own eaves. At the moment I am [...]ed to go to Brighton to fulfil a promise made [...]ly when the Sun was shining, before this black North wind lashed in upon us. I hope after this to go into winter [...] for a brace here at home, & then somewhere in England.

   With my kindest regards to Mrs Erskine & all your family, & my sincere hopes that you may pass well through the winter we are entering, believe me.

Very dear Sir, always
Most sincerely yours
H.E. Manning

[Transcription developed by Jared Beverly]