

H. Simon

Hardwick Vicarage 15 Sept. /84
317 (254) After Post.

My dearest Arthur

I would not have left your
two most kind letters unanswered
so long, but they have been absolute-
ly crowded out by heavy pressure
of business & correspondence. —

I am so very much obliged to
you, my Old Friend of so many
years, for your prayers, and your
touching sympathy & offers of help,
and for your invitation. I am so
sorry that there is no prospect of
my being able to accept it — nor
indeed, if I could, would you find
me otherwise than a burdensome
companion. I have abundance of work