

Hardwick Vicarage, 4 May, 1871.

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My dearest Arthur,

I do not know whether we were most astonished or pleased by your most unexpected intelligence - nor do we know how to thank you sufficiently or suitably for all the pains and trouble you have taken - and so perseveringly among disappointments - for our advantage. We acknowledge the hand of a Heavenly Father in this mercy - and yourself as His instrument of blessing. But we cannot be satisfied with mere verbal thanks - and must beg you - unless you would hurt and grieve our feelings much more than we are sure you would like to do - to accept some more substantial proof of our gratitude. I therefore enclose a cheque, of which we most earnestly entreat your acceptance - and we hope you will not fail to come over and be our guest at Boulogne, for as long as ever you like and can. -

My wife would write to you herself - but she has a very painful right arm, much inflamed by 4 cow-pox pustules, now nearly at their height. She will be so pleased to have you as our guest at Boulogne as soon after our arrival there as you can come: and she thinks that you