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1876 September - November Cooper Morris Incoming letters MS 1994

SIDE TWO

My Dear Friends

Your kind invitation for Wm Morris and myself to be present at the marriage of your daughter on the 14th ~~next~~ placing us among the chosen few whom you wish to mark with your special favour by asking them to join your family circle at your own house after the public service has given us additional evidence of ~~your~~ the strength of your ~~kind~~ attachment to us which has been so long continued & so frequently ~~and~~ manifested by unmistakeable tokens. Most highly do we appreciate your affectionate regard, and greatly do we value the many evidences of it we possess. ~~and~~ Nothing could induce us to incur any risk of forfeiting your esteem but we have such entire confidence in your affection that we feel assured your desire for our comfort will reconcile you to our absenting ourselves on that occasion highly as we prize the privilege of your election.

We are old & feeble, and like him who declined the Royal invitation to accompany the triumphant Monarch on his return to Jerusalem are past the period for enjoyment of such pleasures or participating it to others. This occasion is one in which there can be nothing but joy on the part of all your friends whether present with you or like ourselves detained by our own infirmities - and most gladly would we be among those who rejoice without abatement or alloy, but we trust you will be pleased to extend your kindness as to pardon our absence and attribute it to no other motive than the consciousness