

*II*¹

(Probably written at the house of Hugh Birley)
MANCHESTER, 16th August, 1858.

DEAR SISTER – We performed our yesterday's journey very well, and find our children this morning in good travelling order; but not so the weather. It rains, as the saying is, "cats and dogs," and we have in vain got ourselves in perfect readiness by halfpast seven o'clock. Under these circumstances I have postponed our departure, rather against my wife's opinion, in the hopes that in the course of the morning we may find a more favourable moment, though, to judge by complexions, without much chance of their fulfilment, for there is every appearance of a thorough wet day. We found Blackburn in a bustle expecting the sheriff, and as we were not much hurried we waited half an hour to see this great man leave the town, Our kind host followed him on horseback with Joe Feilden². Cicely's cold seems of the same description as those that are prevalent at Kirkham, and requires nursing, I think. I wish, Joe Hornby would nurse himself; I think he wants it. Jane³ and children were in excellent health and spirits – of the youngest, indeed, I can't say much, as I only saw it asleep in its crib. With a thousand thanks to you and all our friends for their kind wishes, and especially to yourself and your good man, for your late kind attentions to my family. – I remain my dear sister's very affectionate brother,

THO. LANGTON.

¹Comprising pages 10 - 11

²Joseph Feilden, son of Henry Feilden of Witton Park ; born 1792; died 1870. Captain in 1st Royal Lancashire Militia from 1812 to 1816, and sometime M. P. for Blackburn. Married in 1817 Frances Mary, daughter of the Rev. Streynsham Master,. Rector of Croston, near Lancaster.

³Mrs. Joe Birley -- the child was Thomas Hornby Birley, born May 1815.