

COPY OF LETTER FROM THOMAS MANNING

TO CHARLES LAMB.

Dated by post-mark May 12. 1806.

Dear Lamb

As we are not sailed yet, & I have a few minutes why should not I give you a line to say that I received your kind letter yesterday, & shall read it again before I have done with it. I am sorry I had not time to call on Mary - but I did not call even on my own father, & he's 70, & loves me like . . . . . a father.

I dont know that you can do anything for me at the India house - if you hear anything there about me, communicate it to Mr Crabtree 13 Newgate street. \_\_\_\_\_

I am not dead nor dying - some people go into Yorkshire for 4 years, & never come to London all the while! I go to China. Whats the difference to our London friends?

I am persuaded I shall come back & see more of you than I have ever been able - who knows but I may make a fortune & take you & Mary out a riding in my Coach. There's nobody has a prior claim to you, you may depend upon it - of course you know you must leave room for my little Chinese wife, because poor pipsey's feet are so small she cant walk you know!

Does a man at my age forget & neglect his best & dearest

friends? no. well then you & Mary are safe - so god  
bless you both.

Writing does me hurt at present - my throat now begins  
to be sore, & I have no curant jilly aboard. Tell Holcroft  
I received his kind letter.

T. Manning for ever.

(Sketch of a ship) Monday Morning

P.S. 1806.

W<sup>ch</sup> Charles Lamb  
India house  
London

~~see~~ note in Lamb's writing: "received 13 May 1806."