W9/B1/50

Exeter.
January 22nd 1880.

dear

Never having had the pleasure of writing to you before I feel rather in a difficulty, but under the circumstances you must please excuse my weakness.

As Lea is writing to-day she will have told you everything about our engagement, which I hope you will be pleased to hear and give your kind consent to. We have known each other ever since we can remember &

strange to say, have always had an affection for one another, which in the last few years has ripened into strong love, until I thought it was time that we should be engaged, having asked I am glad to say I have obtained her assent, thus the matter stands, waiting for your permission to be so.

Of course marriage is out of the question at present, one thing being we are rather young, my opinion, another that I am not settled yet, for I would not think of taking a wife without I had sufficient means to keep her. But when we are, no difficulty arising, you may be sure I will do everything in my power to make the dear girl happy, & everything else that it is a husbands duty to do.

With reference to my Parents at home, I am sorry to say I think I will meet with a little objection, for the present any way, but my intention is to stand firm to my ground, until, as these

sort of things generally do, give a favourable turn. I have written to tell them of it to-day. So hope in my next to give you a different account.

With kind wishes all

I remain,

Yrs very sincerely.

Thomas Crosby