35 Exchange, Birmingham [England]
Nov. 25/68 [1868]

My Dear Sir

I thank you for your kind and interesting letter. I should esteem it an honor to send Mr. Johnson's response to the address he is to receive. But my health is very feeble and precarious—my breath is short and weak, owing to an affection of the heart that has been growing upon me. I am afraid to let him rely upon me, to not knowing what may happen to me in the meantime. If he could send a copy of his response to me or for me, I would make a second one which any person might read at first sight, if I should break down before the banquet came on. I am invited as a guest and look forward with deep interest to the occasion. Does Mr. Johnson attach a particular interest to his address being read by an American? I know two or three of our merchants here who would do it capitally. How proud I should be to do it! But I am afraid to undertake it, lest I should mortify the author and myself too. Still, what little of life is in me is at his command.

I thank you for your kind mention of my little book.

Ever yours truly

Elihu Burritt

Benjamin Moran Esq,