[1891, March 25]

[From: Lord Alfred Tennyson]

[To: Sir Edwin Arnold][[1]](#footnote-1)

Farringford,

Freshwater,

Isle of Wight.[[2]](#footnote-2)

March 25/91

[[3]](#footnote-3)Dear Sir Edwin Arnold

We like your “Light of Asia”[[4]](#footnote-4) so well that we had already possessed ourselves of your “Light of the World.”[[5]](#footnote-5) The copy which you have been so kind as to send thru our common friend Mr. Fitzgerald[[6]](#footnote-6) I shall value not only for itself but as your gift.

Whenever you

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are near either of my homes,[[7]](#footnote-7) we shall be glad to welcome you. My son Hallam[[8]](#footnote-8) writes this, (as my wrist is somewhat painful,) which I sign

Y faithfully

Tennyson

1. Sir Edwin Arnold (1832-1904) was a poet and journalist who spent a number of years in India, first as principal of the Deccan Sanskrit College at Poona, and then as a fellow of Bombay University (see the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* [*ODNB*]). He was seriously considered for the poet laureateship when Tennyson died in 1892. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The address is imprinted in black on the upper right corner of the first page. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This letter is written on mourning paper. Tennyson’s younger brother, Edward, had died in 1890 (see *ODNB*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Published in 1879, *The Light of Asia, or The Great Renunciation* is Arnold’s popular versified account of the life, character, and philosophy of the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *The Light of the World, or The Great Consummation* is Arnold’s 1891 versified account of the life and teaching of Christ, which he published in attempt to placate the Christian critics of *The Light of Asia*. Unlike his earlier volume, *The Light of the World* “proved a signal failure” (see *ODNB*). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Possibly a relation of Edward FitzGerald (1809-1883), a friend of Tennyson from his time at Cambridge in the 1830s (see *ODNB*). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Tennyson owned two homes: Farringford in Freshwater on the Isle of Wight, and Aldworth, located near Haslemere (see *ODNB*). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Hallam Tennyson (1852-1928) was the eldest son of the poet laureate (see *ODNB*). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)