SIDE TWO

my Nancy, against expecting one too soon, As after I am set off, the round about way I may be Obliged to take, & the delays & disapointments, I may possibly meet with, will make the Voyage considerably Longer, than formerly, when None of the Interruptions I speak off Subsisted. One Comfort However, you will have, that is, I shall have the whole of the fine Season of the year, before me, to perform it in & should I be a Little Longer than your Affectionate wishes would willingly Allow me, yet the little risk that I shall run, will make up for it.

How happy should I be, My dear Girl, If I could be in any tolerable certainty of your & your dear little ones situation. Not a Letter has reached me Since Your of the 29th of September last, which I received the 25th of January, & Consequently am in a state of total Ignorance about what I value more than every thing else in this World put together, of near 7 Months continuance. It is really hard, that Not one of the many Letters you have wrote in the time, should escape. God Grant, there May be No other cause for my Not hearing from you, but the miscarriage of Letters. What would I give for only a line or two of a Late date, saying you were well and At Chester at the Bottom! It would be a great comfort to me indeed, & if it was added to it, that our dear Children, were well Got over the hooping cough & all its Consequences, I should then be Satisfied, and go thro' the time that is still to separate us, with little or No anxiety, in comparison to what I can't help feeling If I am still to be kept so totally in the dark. However, Should I be so Unlucky, as that all my Letters are to Miscarry, And Thats the first Information I receive at My dear Family, to be from their own Mouths, Yet should I at last be set down among them again & find no other alteration has taken place, but what 12 Months Must Necessarily occasion, I will be exceedingly thankful, & not begrudge the Many fruitless wishes I have made for More frequent & Quicker Intell[illegible]

My best & Warmest wishes attend all my [illegible] Friends at West River & Chester. You will be particular in My Remembrance of them. Don't forget to Mention Me to Dod. & Mr Scot Mipkey & Mrs Montgomery & Mr W: D Dulany (his Brother & wife son & Nephew, are all well)

For You & your dear little ones Safety & happiness, My ever dear Wife, My Most fervent Prayers are constantly employed, & for what depends on Me, You May most assuredly ~~depend~~ rely, Whether Absent from or present with you, My utmost exertions shall Not be wanting to Secure them, both to you & them — God in Heaven, bless and Protect you & for the comfort & happiness of My faithful tender & affect.

James Chestor