SIDE TWO

for you see I am rather prone to take liberty — also in the Calico I am in doubt whether I have done right as you did not specify what it was to make — I concluded three gowns, & meeting with some articles very cheap have appropriated accordingly — the one that is in two pieces I thought so pretty I could not give it up, as according to my skill in mantuamaking it wd divide without any waiste, the shortest length making 2 breadths for you — & being a remnant have full half a yd over measure for nothing. last spring those patterns sold for 4-6 & 5 shillings a yard; In one of the pieces of Irish I have exceeded, 2 per yard the difference in advantage was so great it tempted me, that of the half crown one was from a different shop to the 2., shall be glad to know which you like best, another deviation I made also in the 6 yds of thread stocks as you did not mention who they were for, I concluded them for your self — & the thread at that price were so course & bad I wd not send them — I believe all the other things are as you desired — With respect to the dress of your girls, nothing so pretty as Muslin for best — for instance full petticoat rather long behind, full sleeves & silk body laced before — bottom of the coat trimd with a plaited ribbon of the same colour — Jackets & petticoats very much done in muslin or any thing — round gowns of Muslin very pretty — these are the principal dresses — indeed for all ages almost — & the summer small hats or bonnets — in the Winter caps of edgd muslin more than anything — accept in both dresses — With those, black caps look very pretty for young people particularly if they have fair hair — I ordered a dress cape etc this winter for Mrs Spring by Mr Brooks' desire, perhaps you may know the Lady & see the articles — a black cape was among them — & a dress hat — — So much for the business of dress — The News papers & Magazines I shall send to my Brother notwithstanding I think him a very ill fellow in the business of writing — but as that is I fancy occasioned by his industry in other matters I can forgive it — & sincerely hope all his exertions will be crowned with success — Pray remember me most affectionately to him,

With respect to ourselves we jog on much in the same even course, & accept many degrees of anxiety often for Mr Bent extreme tenderness of constitution, I have fewer causes of care & anxiety than most of my circle which is pretty numerous — you will say that one is sufficient, & I should say too much — if I was not buoyd up with the hope that they are errors that one more likely to wear themselves out, than increase with age — The last is the last serious plunge has never yet been quite got over — I think another summer, & constant veiling which he is steadily resolved to pursue will quite restore him — fortunately for him this winter has been a second edition of the last in mildness, for it has been anything but cold — for my part I prefer frost to wet, which we have constantly had, as well as extraordinary occurrences of which the papers will give you a full account — The famous one at Christmas we were out of Town with our friends the Roberts, were nothing was damaged, we therefore escaped the fright of a great deal of injury to our roof, & our back windows frames & all, being blown in — all that family are well & make constant kind

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old friend) is wonderfully well, & loves him with great sincerity, Thanks for remembering my Dear Boy — The parting with him was a cutting stroke indeed — but I have had the felicity of long letters from him — imparting his safe arrival, good health & happy reception among his own family, here he is quite idolized — he has already a good appointment — & I indulge myself in the pleasing hope of living to see him return a character of respect & independance to comfort our old age — & if please God he has his health & lives, there is little danger but this will come to pass in its fullest extent — for he is blest with uncommon abilities that are already distinguished — has powerful connexion & interest in both countrys — & the strongest attachment that can be, to those who have had the care of him so many years — his letters gratify me in every point, & make most mothers very jealous, as they say their own sons don't address them in such a stile of affection as he does me I dare say this wd not be the case with you — for in general I think it is the parents fault when their children are not dutiful or affectionate — It proves they neither treat their babes with authority or tenderness, & its certainly necessary to blend both