SIDE TWO

to kill any one - but I was apard that, by being totally ignorant danger was near till I sustaind the injury - it fortunately came behind me unheard, & so fortunately struck the most fleshy part - the same blow in front must have been fatal - or a greater of an inch farther where it was would have prevented my taking the tale - a Gentleman passing at the instant picked me up & conveyd me home - I will not dwell longer upon the horrid business, & only add upon the subject that if it did not quite reconcile me, the very kind attention of very many friends very much alleviated all my sufferings & my Dear Mrs Bens anxietys - In particular my Dear & never failing ones the Caulets. Who engaged to the Country, would not quit town till I no longer required their assistance - which I had night & day - So much do I feel the blessing of the contrary that I cannot fancy a greater state of wretchedness than to live in the world unloved by it - that is by ones own share of it - I will not be so vain as to define the cause - but I feel the effect so much that I am happy in it - & grateful for it -

& now I think its time to talk of something besides self - & first of all my Dear Brother to you I speak, & what I am going to say you will allow is at least disinterested - for alas sorry am I to add, that if your life be extended to the utmost limit of human existence & mine also, we have little chance of nearer intercourse than the present - Yet I know your life valuable to those around you - & therefore must venture an opinion on the most likely means to preserve it - I cant help think[ing] you have adopted too rigid a plan of abstemious living The gout was not introduced to your habit from the cousin esteem - therefore cannot be eradicated by the one your persue - but being born & bred with you as an inmate you must submit to, only, assigning it its proper place of abode, & never gains a complete mastery so long as you keep it to the extremitys - which wises heads (than mine) affirm, can only be done by fortifying the stomach properly with a moderate quantity of good generous Maidera - which advice I hope you will follow & at least take a glass more than common every day just to please me - - From you my dear Sister I shall hope to hear this advice is salutary - Unless it being given gratis he will thank me for it himself -

I was happy to hear the young lady - Shaw &c. arrived safe & gave pleasure - My various indispositions retarded everything this year - the last were all packd up by Ships Caulet Brooks sent them - by what ship he has never yet informd me - I shall send this to him to forward & beg him to mention to you in the envelope - hope they will arrive safe, & be as well approved as the preceding ones - I have a balance belonging to each of my Correspondents in my hands - which I will spend in their service in due time - I have no papers here - So will by the next opportunity send a transcript of how our accounts stand - dont fail to let me know if I ever blunder - - The largest sum is due to Miss Ringgold - to whom present my kind compts & beg she will give her commands to me for the expenditure -