1895 Box 1

SIDE TWO

I fear my Brother is too much addicted to his plan of low living for the benefit of his constitution, I know it is not the System here, but rather the contrary to keep it from the vitals, & throw it into the extremities – I know an old Gentleman of seventy – who has from an early age been subject to gout & asthma – & tho' not a debauchee, has lived what is call generously – & now after 2 or 3 glasses of Madeira Bill take his pint of Port – & of latter years the fits have so decreased he is seldom by disease, confined three days at a time. He is merely careful not to expose himself to bad weather – Now I suspect my Brother is not very careful in this point – perhaps counting on a good plaster – Remember me to him affectionately & tell him it would do him much good to drink my health in a bumper every day of his life – & indeed I think he ought to do so, I will do the same for him willingly –

As for bad seasons & bad crops, alas – I fear that has prevailed too much every where – In what My Dear Sister be are in a bad way in this country in every point – provision of all kind risen to a frightful price – I may say fairly within the last 2 years a third upon every article in life – upon many half – perhaps running high – & all people very dissatisfied – I don't like the times – but its not my temper much to fret at anything totally out of my own power to alter or redress – My own affairs I will manage to the best of my judgment & the rest must go with the stream – a little will supply Newspapers – & Luxuries – Many must if they are prudent give up at present –

We past a pleasant five weeks this autumn a little way out of town, & was both benefited by it – its one of our regrets we cant have as much of country as we wish, we are both fond of it – particularly as London is a bustling life, & to us of necessity, more than to many people in point very pleasant I confess – for we have many not only agreeable, but much to be valued & real friends – Which is not perfectly [illegible] for in the fine world – its not a term understood, nor important to the individual – & to say truth such as compose it are not a contemptible race both male & female – little pretence however common honesty of any kind to regard to their descendants – But as I cant [illegible] their plans I need not waste my time in reviling them –

All our particular friends remain much in the same state they have long – save & except the difference that added years makes in both old & young – Our friends the Lawtons have been absent the last five months, they are always a treat to me – as our intimacy is like that of affectionate sisters – I expect them home in a few days –

My Dear Son I have lately had letters from – himself Wife & my little grandson & godson are all well – He is now rising fast – his place this year 150 pound per Month – He writes kind & affectionate as ever. as you shall some day see –

Love to my Dear Nieces & Nephew from Truly & Sincerely your affectionate Sister Sra. Stag. Bensley