1850 June 18

SIDE TWO

It will be a proof positive of the failure of my letters & to what extent — if you have not yet learnd that I have had the felicity of seeing my dear Thornhill in England — This event was a melancholy one — but I have seen him — & in his mature character found him all I could wish of talent — conduct — affections &c — such as from description your boy my dear Nephew is likely to prove — Never-never shall I cease regretting that you & yours are so infinitely out of my reach — that our affections & friendships might have been link'd in the same chain — You & yours would have lov'd my Thornhill & he would have lov'd you all — I should you know ever have anything to do with Calcutta he would find a friend in whom he might confide if there he continues — poor fellow his business in England was to conduct as it was thought a dying wife — However by the time they arrived the voyage — & the birth of a child on board, had so far removed her complaints that no decline remained but extreme delicacy, of which she has been every day mending in this climate — The poor fellow is now upon the Wide Ocean on his way back — She remains with her Mother in Scotland till next spring — then will brave the dangers of the sea, & again encounter that pestiferous Eastern climate — for the sake of being reunited to her dear husband — Much I fear it will never agree with her — but it must be tryd — Their children are to by under our protection intirely — their only boy) & a very fine fellow he is, has been with us above two years — three two girls — lovely children — The youngest is with its Mother till she departs — I never lov'd children so — these give me all the pleasurable part without the anxiety of they are to be provided for — —

The bill & invoice you speak of never found its way to me — so I shall now be in town very soon — I will at least in conjunction with Mr Brooks execute the Commission you have sent him — & from this time I trust our correspondence & all plans will go on without interruption If there is no immediate opportunity I will desire this may be sent by a Packet —

From August last till the end of April we & the Thornhills were together & my head heart & hands was pretty full of employ — but I wrote three in the time they were with me — & told you all our history — We are now upon a visit to our friend Mr Beresford — but must in a few days go to our new destination — he shall take a lodging till he can find a suitable house — There were sad times for narrow means — & delicate health — which my dear husband ever has & ever will have — & though still they will be very moderate — yet as we are not any dashing people he cannot want any of the comforts of life — The times at present are a severe pinch upon all people whose means are not extreamly affluent but we hope a good season & good crops may mend this evil — this thus far it has not been favourable by any means —

You say in yours Fanny has written to me — it has not come to hand — which is a great disappointment to me — Mr Ben joins in every affectionate wish for health & every happiness to you & your dear children with your sincere

Friend & sister C. A. Benedict