SIDE ONE

Hagerstown June 30 1835

To Mrs Chester

I much regret my Dear and respected Madam not being able to do myself the honour of addressing you before this evening. I intended writing the day after our return but on that and each succeeding day something has occurred to prevent me. I know you are very anxious to hear from Mrs Galloway and indeed my dear Madam I have sincere pleasure in thinking that as I am able to speak of her improved health and spirits I am in no small degree contributing to your happiness and indeed would my heart be were I quite insensible to the Happiness of one from whom I from every member of whose family I received so much undeserved kindness as the friend of Mrs Galloway of one you so much loved. I expected politeness but from you Dear Madam I could not help feeling I received much more & I shall ever look upon the quiet days spent at West River as among the happiest of my life. I am not. I believe very fond of the Country but how void of all taste must any one be that could not admire the lovely scenery by which you are surrounded. after when standing at your front door I have looked round again and again and wondered if any thing was wanting to make it the loveliest spot in the World — but excuse me dear Madam I had almost forgotten what was to give you pleasure in speaking of my own. when we reached Washington which was quite early in the evening Mrs Galloway was very much fatigued the evening was very warm and we had not been able to rest until we got to Broadenbugh. Mrs Maxey took a different road I believe

her and was obliged to return Mrs Beatty and Miss Eliza desire a great deal of love to you to Miss Chester the Misses Thomas the Misses Chester. Dear little children. Miss Louisa wishes much to be particularly remembered please present our best love to Miss Fanny & tell her we shall not soon forget her kindness & am so sorry we forgot the morning of our departure to ask for those slips Miss Fanny promised us I have tried to make them flourish for her sake as well as my own. I found a Letter from my sister waiting my arrival & one

after explaining my letter I cannot but apologize and hope Madam for sending you this rambling scribble but I never could write a letter for you I would have tried if written it over but my time this evening is so very precious as indeed every moment I can but occupy with you I trust Madam will excuse me this time

from Dorothea a short time after which has made me quite happy — but how shall I apologize for this long & I fear hardly to be deciphered letter but my apology is dear Madam that I hoped it would reach you on one of those long days, you are entirely alone & might derive to make it seem less tiresome will you be so kind as to give my love to Mrs Mummay my respects to the old gentleman & the rest of that kind family I hope Miss Thomas has not quite forgotten me & will accept my love if I am not too insane I would wish to be respectfully remembered to all the family at Lethian Adieu my dear Madam & pray that every blessing may attend you in your declining years that every cause of disquiet may be removed with dutiful respect & affection I remain to subscribe myself Ls. R. Reynolds