SIDE TWO

Staunton
Feby 26 - 1819 — At any rate my different dates will prove to you that you are never entirely out of my thoughts — It seems almost silly to go on pleading want of time; yet I can find no other — The fact is I am just at this season divided between two homes — Inclination leads me to the country & my young folks to Town where Thornhill is settled — going backwards & forwards (the healthfull & pleasant) takes time, when at home I live out of doors for this my Territory is a very small one — I continue to find full employ in it — When in London, tho I of course enter into some of the gaieties, I do not find the days quite long enough for all I want to cram into them — Exercise being essential both to my health & pleasure, I generally walk forth (weather permitting) directly after Breakfast, & do various little Errands for the House or for those who are not as actively disposed as myself — At two we start for a ride & pay visits being sure of finding nobody at home — This is one feature of London Society — which is indeed much changed since I was a constant resident in it — However, myself & a few old & valued Friends go on in the old Style — really meet for a few hours of an evening sociably — not being content to hold & pop each other in a crowd only — —

About a fortnight past we had the pleasure of Mr & Mrs Rush's Company — Much as I liked it, from one cause or another existing on both sides — we had never accomplished anything Social before — They both add to the list of Americans I am very proud of — Mrs Rush possesses a something in my estimation far beyond regular Beauty — She is altogether a very fascinating Woman, Mr Rush it had so chanced I had never seen before, report had spoken highly of him & we were in no respect disappointed — he appears to be a most gentlemanly agreeable man — When the season is a little farther advanced I shall hope to tempt them to Staunton where yet (it seems almost strange to say) I have not had the pleasure of seeing them — —

I truly hope my dear Niece this will find you in improved health & Spirits, & your Nerves firm & braced — they are difficult diseases to encounter — but you must oppose them with all your might — No doubt [illegible] you have [illegible]le advice — & resolutely follow it — Your Brother Bill have long before this, [illegible] have heard from me, thanking him for the trouble he had taken in dispencing a little money to my poor Brother & empowering him in future to do so for me, as real wants might arise — I saw here from him frequently — & with his Children he seems happy, & appears me they are good & dutifull to him — All tho he has thrown himself & his Offspring from the rank in life they ought to have held — it afford me real satisfaction to know they are thriving in the Occation he has brought them up in — His Daughter is I find Married — I have sent her a little Household linen to begin Housekeeping with — or rather for their general use as Daniel tells me they all live together — That looks well