1504 John Gatewood

SIDE TWO

prayers and tears. But how soon when I reflect
on the happy state of your mind does these
painfull reflections vanish to think how near
you are brought to perfection on earth one step
more and you rise to Heaven — as long as you
inhabit this world I am confident it will add
to your happiness in it. To know that your sister
is happily situated. often my dear do I return
thanks to my god and acknowledge his great goodness
to me, and fear that I am not worthy of half the
blessings I enjoy — and often ask myself what I
have done to deserve them. and continually pray
that I may be grateful to my god. Am I not
blessed with the tenderest of husbands one that I can
love and respect. My dear little Children all possess
ing all that a fond mother could wish. My Ser
=vants faithfull and excellent which shall most
oblige me — I love my relations and know I am
beloved by them have made many friends where
I live and tho we do not count many thousands
a year. yet perhaps there few whose wants are
better supplied. all these worldly blessings you
know I have — and that of a good conscience
But as the Scripture tells us, where much is
given much is required. it behoves me to be
watchfull — and that I do not get too much attached
to the things of this world. when I examine myself
I find its riches has no charms for me further
than they enable me to live comfortable & try & make
others so. But my tender plants that are now
in my charge would make me fear to quit
the world. not that I doubt the faithfulness of
providence to watch over them — but a mothers
eye is so necessary to guard them from the snares
and allurements of this world and I hope I have
not sinned in wishing to be spared. if it is a
fault it seems to "lean to virtues side". But we
bring into the world with us — such an aversion to it
going out of it that, to speak in the language of
"through fear of death we are all our life time — sub
=ject to bondage" — To you whose mind is in such
an enviable state it is unnecessary for me to offer it conso
lation, it would be better for me could I be near your
pillow to receive them myself from your low whispers may your
example sink deep in my heart and in your surrounding
friends — pray my dear that your sister may live so as
to die in the Lord. May god of his infinite
mercy hear my prayers for the eternal welfare of
the dearest of brothers who will ever live in the
fond recollections of his sister and whose blessed
example will stimulate her unceasing zeal in this
seducing world while we are all in danger of falling
off from grace and the hope of meeting him