SIDE ONE

Philad. Aug 8th 1860

My Dear Wife

In your thirty years Experience of married life you must have learned to understand my character, and know how to adapt yourself to its capricious nature. I was never more struck with it than in the remark you make in one of your late letters in reply to my expression of my feeling as limited to the desire to avoid giving pain to any one and to you especially. Your kindness has afforded me greater relief than ever you can conceive. I have been, and still am, thoroughly convinced that it is impossible for me to leave here this summer. My own health is wonderfully sustained and the only difficulty has been the apprehension that it was causing you anxiety and would give you distress. We must live one day at a time. I certainly have not yet seen one day in which it would have been proper that I should absent. I can not see why it is so ordered. Certainly all my purposes were different and all my plans were laid with - owing to an entirely different course of life. I did desire, and, thank God I can still say I do desire to do that which is right. I should not be happy any where, or under any circumstances without some evidence that my