1868 August

SIDE TWO

occupied by other thoughts allow me to say a few words on the subject which is I am sure uppermost at this time in your heart as it is in mine. In a few days my Hospital engagement will terminate for this year and I shall not have the close occupation of my time which it has caused by the entire absorption of two afternoons every week. Nor shall I feel that I am discharging my duty to the institution by leaving the City. If therefore it is necessary I shall be able to do so. The question then occurs shall I? When I look at the dear boys confined here ~~[illegible]~~ Galloway not well and toiling hard, Israel and Chester obliged to forego a pleasure to which they have been accustomed from their childhood and which they prize highly. I can not bring myself to consent to abandon them and seek my own gratification without any necessity. While here I am gathering a few dollars daily which we can appropriate to their comfort and am keeping myself more prominently in the notice of the community and removing the impression which I had strived to promote during many years, that I was indifferent to the profit of my profession and cared nothing for its honors. People are now learning that I am likely to continue for the remainder of my life in the duties of the practice of Medicine. They again I am weaned from the delights of my work. It will be very hard for me to tear myself away from them at the end of a fortnight, and to be longer absent would be destructive to my practice. You will probably demur to this and say it is one of my crotchets. This is the truth. If I am to continue here I must have a certain number of patients for my support, and a certain kind of patients for my gratification. My health is good I do not become wearied by the labours of the day especially when I am obliged to go to German town or Germantown or to Mr Biddle. These excursions do not refresh me as they once did. But still I am stronger and stronger than when you left. You and Deer Mary and Harry & the little ones come constantly before me with a clear temptation to break through. Yet I do not know how I can do so when I think of those here, and feel