1860 August

SIDE ONE

Phila. Augt 19th 1860

My Dear Wife I had designed writing to you to day in case any thing should occur tomorrow to prevent the accomplishment of my purpose to leave here by the night train and so take the boat for Cape May on Tuesday morning. I am prepared for a contingency, but find it very difficult to seat myself to work with the certainty that I shall not be able to gratify you and the dear children. Let not fear must be my guide, bid me not to anticipate the hour of return before I overcome the difficulty of leaving here.

On Thursday last Mr & Mrs Talbot with their children came here to get themselves ready to start yesterday. They put our house in the hands of the mechanics and unceremoniously for the mountains. On Friday Dr Farr said he must first go to New York; & their departure was therefore postponed till tomorrow, and he left for New York on Friday evening. At dinner time yesterday Mrs Farr went for tea and sent for me to come to her room where I found her very ill. My carriage was at the door to convey me to meet Hill to make a funeral visit to Father, but I was obliged to send Hill on Sunday errands for Mrs F & leave it instead, and did not leave her room again till breakfast time this morning. She has been extremely ill. Pain is now better. Mr Mitchell & I spent the evening with her on Friday & told her they were using every effort to get me away tomorrow so that she is crowded about my detention.

I have any thing I shall write you more fully when I see you. I might have turned him aside from the way of life. I might have been the agent for irreparable mischief to him & through him to others. And God has shielded him & placed him under better circumstances. Oh! the prayer of his mother's heart is very fervent, and that he may be kept unsullied by the world. As regards ourselves and our children, we must have trials many & sore trials. You must have felt many discomforts, and encountered many difficulties this summer which you have spared me by keeping to yourself. There is only one thing left for us and that is a meek and patient submission to the chastisement of our Heavenly Father, and constant and fervent prayer that He will sanctify our trials, and not give us over to condemnation. And we must be careful watching carefully to see what ought to be the duty we should do. When I look around me at the condition of the church, and within me at the corruption of my own heart I am ready to faint & fall. You will see a grand rout on the subject of the festival at Thomas the Bar. It was all got up. I am sorry to say Dr Hare's name is so connected with it. There has been grievous scandal there which I hope is over. The W. Brooks case is sad one. What a cross it is. But I need not to look without all within is vain and into prone to unbelief and sin. Am I dear myself a child? I am almost ready to be a child. May God bless the little ones.

Caspar Wistar