1861 May

SIDE ONE

Philad May 12th 1861

My Dear Wife

Whether this will reach you in the quiet of your home at Long Neck or my anxiety and want of faith have so disturbed its tranquillity that you will have left it with Dear Israel to join me in the turmoil and confusion of these horrid scenes which are here being enacted, I cannot foresee. I have unhappily lost that firm hold on Jesus as the ground of my hope toward God which so long sustained me. I am made to possess the sins of my youth and those also of my old age. and can not see them or what the Lord hath laid the iniquities of us all. If I could I should be able to endure all trials and commit all but loss - I have been sadly agitated by this affair of Sumter from post to pillar with fluctuating views of duty. I thought I had brought myself to leave the responsibility with himself. and that I could commit him to the care of God and follow my own path which he pursued in our sense of duty. I found however that I had not the self control I hoped, and now I am (as you know I am not be likely to do) ready to reproach myself for having constrained him to submit to my views. It will be greatly relieved when I learn your opinion and shall be influenced by it entirely - I do not desire to have you and dear Mary and the children leave the delights of our pleasant home needlessly - and should not think of it at all were it not for the "presentiment" of sorrow connected with it which you have heard me allude to so frequently of late and which has followed me ever since the decision of the commissioners by which this was assigned to you. No one ever appreciated more highly than I have done the beauties comforts and pleasures which cluster there. This one thought however has always intruded itself into the paradise to mar its delights. If I could get rid of that I should be happy indeed.