1861 Hay/Lincoln

SIDE TWO

Cousin Emily appears perfectly delighted with the prospect of a change — willing to sacrifice her house if it is necessary to do so. Says the Calendy would have left it at any rate & was proposing to go to the St Lukes Hospital in New York, with George, till rooms could be had in ours here — She will do our best to promote her comfort. She will always be an invalid & require kind attention from us and our children so long as she lives — As I raised my arm just now the raggedness of my wrapper attracted my attention. The old brown stripes are of very many of the material. If not bring the Red Flannel gown with you which is not so warm as the lined one I have here.

I can scarce bring myself to bear the feeling of bringing you away from Mary & the children long for a short time. — Mr Buckley is a little better. He & Mr E & Annie are talking summer plans. Mr E urging Mary — Cousin Harriet would be delighted to return to Long Nick with you if she should be able to do so. But we none of us can look so far ahead. A fortnight's operations of this sad sad war may result in the necessity for new plans entirely. I saw yesterday a gentleman from Alabama who lives at Montgomery & came here for a long body & returned there last night. He says they have no wish for Virginia to join them. Did not allude to Maryland — and that the removal of the seat of Government to Richmond is only temporary, to relieve Virginia — In other words to bring the seat of war away from themselves.

Your loving husband
Caspar Collins

Dear love to Cornelia & Mary & their Parent. & kind regards to Eden