1869

SIDE TWO

my Living. tho' I am not young, & have not strong health. I could take charges as matron of some of the institutions of the day that require such a person - I could take the superintendence of a private establishment, for I have had an old fashioned bringing up & am a good housekeeper. or I could be a companion & care taker of one who was lonely or an invalid, tho' I could not nurse any one that was very sick. I often hear of persons who are called upon for such services, tho' inquiries in my own circle of observation have not enabled me to meet with such a situation - your large acquaintance as a physician, your extended private circle of personal friends & connections, & your knowledge of the benevolent, & religious workings of society, open to you a wide field of vision. The knowledge of this has induced me to trouble you on my own account, thinking it possible among all the people that you know, & all the doings that you come in contact with, you might see some little space that I might creep into

for a little while, "for the time is short." & be useful in a small way, & support myself. I should not object to go far away; indeed sometimes think it would be better for me to leave places & scenes where I have had & have lost so much. My dear friends Miss Paul & Mrs Wilson, after the death of my mother offered me, & urged me to accept a home with them - but I thot that my sister & myself, while we could, would comfort each other by being together, where every room & every piece of old furniture was our companionship - filled with histories & memories & associations & made sacred to us by the use of those whom we loved & whose love to us made their happiness - & the old mirrors which for generations have reflected the beloved faces that we shall behold no more. We cannot longer have this indulgence - & since the offer was made many circumstances have changed, in the family of my dear friends - tho' I should, I know, be just as welcome as the day I was asked. I myself wld. feel more hesitation in accepting, even if I did not think it right to depend upon myself while I could. I tell you this because I think it justice to them