1872 April – July

SIDE ONE

would I thus have poured out my heart to you. There you ever hold your own place, in my deep & constant gratitude & trust – exerting an influence always strong & always good – often consulted as a living Epistle, as "what would the Dr think or decide"? My sister Mary & her children are well, looking forward to moving from their present home next Fall, probably they will live in town, as the next University is too distant from Germantown – & they do not consider West Phila quite healthy as a residence. My Aunt Mary is well & mentioned that in her walks among the poor, she visited a woman during this winter whom Miss Emil Hollingsworth has befriended: she tells my Aunt that Miss H. has twice written to her from Cuba; much to her consolation, expects to return very soon. Dear Doctor! say "God bless you!" as you used. When in my dreams you visit me you speak a verse of a hymn or the like: the last such occasion it was the verse "Just as I am – tho' tossed about
With many a conflict many a doubt.
Fightings within & fears without –
O Lamb of God I come!"

are content. Around me, in books & flowers (constantly renewed) & receptacles for them, I have evidences of our dear Mrs Cope's loving kindness. And it is of that sort, that it always makes me feel her own ready hand rests in it & is guided by our Heavenly Father's hand – she does make me very happy, much more by the thoughts than the things she sends (which really are only a form for those). To be loved & cherished for Christ's sake, what can be more restful & contenting? it humbles & quiets & hushes self, & gives us a foretaste of the affections of Heaven. She has been very good in allowing me to see some of your letters – & we very often speak of you. If I am unable to answer her notes, my sister Birkie answers them in person: her visits to Mrs. Cope this Winter, have been to use Ro's own expression "a refuge" at times. Should you be greatly surprised to hear from homeward bound, anywhere in Europe (a broad path!) toward my sister in law Mrs Griffitts? She has