

New York, Aug. 4, 1834.-

My dear friend,-

Here I am still, in this place of hot streets and unwholesome air. Tomorrow, however, I leave, but, - not for Trenton Falls. My good wife would gladly have undertaken the Niagara expedition, were her state of health adequate to the fatigue of it: - but this not being the case, she had thought of taking up her abode in some one place in the country, and sending me off on my travels. This, however, on second thoughts, seemed to be not a very practicable resolution; - first, from the difficulty of finding a suitable place to settle down in, and secondly, because it is rather a lonely business for a man to be roaming all over the country, and his wife dwelling hundred of miles off in a corner by herself. She has come to the conclusion, therefore, to take the medium; that is, neither to take a long journey, nor to go without any journey at all, - but to make a series of little excursions. Tomorrow we begin by setting out for Montauk Point; and to what other point we shall next go I do not yet know, for we have formed no regular plan of operations. - So much for the grand expedition; - let us put it down among the number of those day-dreams, with which we so often amuse our present hours, and which so often terminate in just nothing at all. -

I received your letter No 2; though so short an epistle is hardly deserving of an acknowledgment. - I was glad

to find by it, that you were still well. I trust that you are privileged to enjoy, my dear friend, that inward peace, which the children of God are encouraged in his word to seek after, and which all who do seek shall most surely obtain. I have much to complain of, in regard to the want of a constant and lively feeling of the presence of God; - but, after all, whom have we to blame in this matter but ourselves? to what is our absence of comfort owing, but to our failure in prayer - our neglect of communion with God - our worldliness of heart and of life? - I trust that the character of your experience is different from this of mine. Often have I blessed God that it has pleased him, as I truly believe, to bring you to the knowledge of that Saviour who is the way, the truth, and the life. May I be allowed to express to you how ardently it is my desire, that you may find more & more, every day, how delightful is the service of such a Lord? But that you may grow in comfort, seek for daily advances in the holiness of the Christian life. Let it be henceforth your great aim to live for eternity: make God your portion: walk consistently before the world: and the Holy Spirit shall descend into your heart, with all the abundance of his joys & blessings. - I mean by all this to say, how deep an interest I take in your welfare, and how strong is my regard; and to convey to you the assurance, that your happiness and prosperity form one of the frequent subjects of my petitions to that Father, whose I trust you are, and whom I believe you serve. -

Mrs. Eastburn desires to be most kindly remembered.

Be pleased to present my affectionate regards to all the inmates of your dwelling. Though not personally known to me, they

are objects of my attachment for your sake. -

As ever
Your friend

Marston Eastburn

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting at the top of the page, possibly a letter or a list of names.]

[A large, stylized handwritten mark, possibly a signature or a large letter 'N', written in red ink.]

Mrs. Nicholas,
Hamilton,
Charrison County,
New York

But that
"Bollocks"

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NEW-YORK
AUG 4