Mark. May 30. 1868

My dear Kate,

I have engaged a young man to take Patrick's place. He has but one eye, but the other appears to be a very good one and I trust will be sufficient for him to guide the horses by. He has been accustomed to live in the country and do farm work as well as to drive horses. He has been but a few months in this country and has no wife young or old, for which I trust he is humbly thankful. Finally, his name is

Barney Aspen and he is brother of Nancy the little headmaid who has lived so long at Edgar's and whom I have so often caroled as a waiter. Aspen's manners are much in his favour, excepting the want of an eye; so, that, though half blind I gather myself with the hope he will not prove a hard bargain.

He will come up on Monday next; so Patrick may make ready Exactly

to transfer the reins of government (of the horses) by that time.

I have just had an unexpected windfall of twenty five dollars from the Harpers on account of my abridgement of Columbus, so if you want to spend any more money now is your time!

With regard to the Governor and love to all the rest of the household

Your affectionate uncle

Washington Irving

1868

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