

A N
A C C O U N T
OF THE LATE
S U C C E S S
OF THE
G O S P E L,
IN THE
PROVINCE OF NEW-YORK,
NORTH-AMERICA:

CONTAINED IN
L E T T E R S
FROM THE
Rev. Messrs. BUEL, HAZARD, and PRIME.

Veaſly I ſay unto you, the Hour is coming, when the Dead ſhall hear the Voice
of the Son of God: And they that hear ſhall live.

JOHN v. 25.

Who are theſe that fly as a Cloud, and as the Doves to their Windows?

ISAIAH lx. 8.



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ADVERTISEMENT.

THESE Letters are re-published here, at the Request of many pious Persons, who are deeply concerned for the Honour of the Redeemer, have a most tender Compassion for the Souls of Man, and who pray for, and rejoice in, the Success of the Gospel. To such Persons, of every Denomination, these Papers (which are undoubtedly genuine) will present acceptable Tidings.

It is evident, at the first View, that these Letters were written in the Course of a friendly Correspondence, without any Design of Publication from the Press; this will be considered as a sufficient Excuse for the Repetition of a Thought, or the Inaccuracy of an Expression. Let it be also considered, that Mr. *Buell* wrote from the Fulness of his Heart, in a Situation the most affecting to a Minister of the Gospel; and the Grandeur and Consequence of his Subject raised him above, what, in such a Connection, I may justly call, the trifling Beauties of Composition.

The Rev. Mr. *Buell*, the honoured Instrument in beginning this Work, is remarkable for his truly serious, and pious Temper, and for Plainness and Fidelity in discharging his Ministerial Office; but he is not distinguished by popular Abilities, or the striking Arts of Address. The heavenly Treasure is put into earthen Vessels, and sometimes into frail and feeble ones; that the Excellence of the Power may more abundantly appear to be of God, and not of Man.

I rejoice that I can inform the Public, that this Work still proceeds, that it hath not only spread over *Long-Island*, but hath extended to the Province of *New-York*, upon the *American* Continent; that it goes forward with great Solidity, and is free from Mixtures of enthusiastic Folly; while its Effects are glorious, viz. All those Fruits of Righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the Praise and Glory of God. Of this we are assured, by Letters dated so late as June this Year; and by the Accounts of those who have been upon the Spot, and have beheld the Scene, with pleasing Surprise, and with Gratitude to a gracious God.

If any Persons, who read these Letters, should be ready to judge, that the strong and visible Emotions, described in them, appear unbecoming an humble Repentance, I would beseech them to consider, the Terror that must naturally arise in a Mind awakened (and that not gradually, but almost instantaneously) to a Sense of its great and aggravated Guilt; the Holiness and Justice of the blessed God; the Purity and Condemnation of his sacred Law, and the tremendous Nature of that everlasting Misery which awaits impenitent Sinners. Is it any Wonder, the Remorse and Anguish should be great and visible, which arises from such Views as these? Let such Persons also read the Account we have upon Record, in the second Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, when Multitudes, convinced by *Peter's* Sermon, were *pricked in their Hearts*, and cried out, *Men and Brethren, what must we do?* Be it still farther considered, that as in general these Terrors were deep and strong, so they were soon succeeded by all the consolations of the Gospel, and the sweeter Meltings of an Evangelical Repentance.

If any, in the Levity of their Minds, should treat the Whole as Enthusiasm and Madness, and turn it, with all serious Religion, into Matter of Scorn and Ridicule, I pity them from my Heart, for I know the Time is approaching, when they will find the Gospel of Christ, and the Work of his Spirit, were no jesting Matters.

Let the Friends of Jesus and of Souls, glorify God for this eminent Revival of a Work of Religion in our Colonies. Let us unite our fervent Prayers, that it may become yet more extensive and glorious. May it spread its happy Influence over the vast *American* World. May our God again visit *Britain*, and pour down his Spirit from on high upon us, that real Godliness may flourish in our Land. Then to use the beautiful Language of ancient Prophecy, *Then shall the Wilderness and the solitary Place be glad, and the Desert shall rejoice and blossom as the Rose: It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with Joy and Singing. Amen and Amen.*

August 26, 1765.

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ACCOUNT

OF THE LATE

Success of the Gospel, &c.



Reverend and Dear Brother,

GRACE, Mercy and Peace, be magnified by all in Heaven, and all on Earth, who love Sion's Prosperity. Everlasting Praise, to the everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; that, in infinite Mercy, the Heavens are bowed, and Jehovah himself is come down, by Way of Divine Influence, in and upon the Hearts of the People of *East-Hampton*, with amazing Power and Glory; exceeding all I ever saw before, and all I ever read or heard of, since the primitive Times of Christianity. For many Weeks past, God has been preparing his Way; his own Children have been remarkably replenished with Love, holy Joy, and unutterable Groanings in Prayer, for the Out-pouring of his Holy Spirit upon us. Our Assemblies have been numerous and solemn, and the Arrows of Conviction, Sermon after Sermon, have been fastened upon the Hearts of Sinners. Thus it has been for some Time past; but, for the last Week, Heaven and Hell have seemed to meet and reign here. God's

People have almost all been favoured with such Manifestations of divine Glory, such Communications of Light and Love, and Comfort, and have been under such labouring Pangs for Sinners, as in some Instances it seemed as if Soul and Body would be separated; in many it is beyond all I could have conceived of, but by what I have now seen. But oh, the Cries, the piercing Cries, and Importunities of Sinners for Mercy!—"Mercy, Mercy, Lord! pardoning Mercy, for Christ's Sake, for the chief of Sinners!"

Such Praying for Mercy, such Earnestness of Expectation, I have heard from Women, young People, and Children, in great Numbers; such Declarations of Man's Sinfulness, by Nature and Practice, of God's Justice and Christ's infinite Merit, and all by those in quest of Mercy, as exceeds all I ever heard or read of. Every Day the House of God has been repaired to, by People in general, by Nine o'Clock, tho' no previous Appointment was made, except one of the Days, when it was supposed there was about one Thousand People, and all seem'd, in some Measure, impress'd with a weighty Sense of divine Things. Never did I see such an Assembly before; God's Glory fill'd the House; Our Pews and Alleys, above Stairs and below, contained wounded and distressed Souls. From Time to Time, and Day after Day, the Holy Ghost came down like a mighty rushing Wind, and sometimes almost as a sudden Flash of Lightening, bowing our Assemblies, and producing as amazing Agonies of Soul, and Cries, as ever I heard. My House, from Day to Day, when we were not in the House of God, began from early in the Morning to be filled with Sinners, and their Cries for Mercy, till Ten in the Evening: And their Cries you might hear

hear in every House as you walked the Streets. In short, as some of our old Christians say, I think, if any one would form an Idea of these Things, that has not seen them, they must think, as well as they can, how it will be at the Day of Judgment, when God's People will be full of divine Joy, and Sinners full of Hell. I have, indeed, seen great Numbers the Week past; one would think the Damned scarce felt more of the Wrath of God. I think I have Scripture Warrant to hope, that Scores of People have experienc'd a saving Change, in about a Week or little more; many of them have seem'd to others, as well as themselves, to come, as it were, out of Hell's Horrors into Heaven. Husbands and their Wives, Parents and their Children, we have Reason to hope, are new-born; all the Town seem to bow before the Work of amazing Power and Glory; and there is scarce a single Instance of a Person out of Christ, above eight Years old, and some under, who are not with Solicitude enquiring what they must do to be saved. Almost all our young People, as well as others of them, of Eight, Ten, or Twelve Years of Age, are hopefully convinced. Among the rest, there is a Jew, that I have Reason to hope is a true Believer in the Messiah; whom he always, till within a few Days, despised; the Dispensations of God towards him are amazing. I can't now relate the Power of Scripture Truth upon the Heart, under a Work of the Law; but the Application of the Gospel hereupon is amazing. Some of our Justices, and great Men in Town, who, as they now own, never before lik'd the Work of God in the Power of it, bow before this Work, which has seized their Hearts. One of them says, in Distress of Soul, *This is all the Work of God, in the Power of it:*

Ob, that I might share in it ! Another says, *Tho' I fear there is no Mercy for me, more than for Devils ; yet, if I was to die now, I would leave my Testimony, that this is the Work of God.* Another, with Tears running down his Eyes, said, *Heaven is now come down in East-Hampton.* They are in the utmost Distress for an Interest in Christ ; the whole Town seems bowed as one Man : Never did you or I see the first Commandment so verif'd, as now in this Town. Hundreds are in Distress of Soul for a Saviour, complaining of hard Hearts, blind Minds, &c. — I can only tell you what has been, and what is ; but what is before us I know not : Yet, at present, it seems as if God was in his Way to cause all to know him, from the least to the greatest. This, I do assure you, my dear Brother, if I know any Thing of the Work of God in the Heart of Man, from God's Word, and by godly Ministers and pious Authors, from the Experience of others of the Power of Religion, and in my own Soul, blessed be God, for about thirty Years, this is indeed his Work.

I can but declare, to the Glory of God, so far as I can judge from all these Things, that this Work, which is now in *East-Hampton*, is by far the most God-like and Christ-like, excellent and glorious, that I ever knew. If any one can call this Work of God a Delusion, as to the Essentials of it, I am fully persuaded, they can do more than Devils can do. However, personally considered, this gives me no Concern ; the Work is in the Hand of God, and there let it be for ever. — You know, my dear Sir, I have been studying the Prophecies, concerning the Latter-Day Glory, for a Number of Years past, and was about to speak to the Public from the Press ; not as timing Events, which yet

are hopefully near, as I was about to shew from *Daniel's Four Monarchies*, *St. John's Revelation*, and correspondent Prophecies. But that Work lies by me at present; for there is Work enough now at *East-Hampton* for many Ministers. I hope some Glimmerings of the *New-Jerusalem* are now breaking forth here. In my Study, and other Rooms, I now hear the Cries of Sinners for Mercy, while some young People are singing of Psalms and Hymns; and by Children, that are come, as it were, out of Hell's Horrors, these Words are frequently repeated, viz. *King Jesus reigns, God's own Almighty Son!* In short, I can't be particular; People in general seem to think the Time is come, when they must make or break for the World Eternal. All our young People, that are Christless, see this World empty, and seem resolved never more to have Rest and Comfort, unless they can find it in the Lord Jesus Christ. How these extraordinary Appearances will terminate, is not for me to say at present. I can only tell you what has been, and what is; but I know not for an Hour what is before us; but have all the Satisfaction I want, without pretending to know the Heart, that a large Number of my People are of late born, and, with Christ's old Disciples, are bound for Glory.—I make no Pretences to a prophetic Spirit, but can't think this glorious Work will end here; and I may venture to say, if this glorious Work should be spread and diffused over *New-England*, as I pray God it may, I believe that much more of God and Christ, and of the marvellous Operations of the Holy Spirit, and of Man's Heart, of Heaven and Hell, will then be known, more than ever was known before; incomparably more, if God should come down upon the

the Hearts of the People in general, as here; it will be in his own Time, which is always best; Mean Time, I hope God's Ministers, such as love the Coming of our Lord and his Kingdom, will be found in the Spirit of *Elias*, and appear full of the Holy Ghost. May God help his dear Children to be incessant, as well as fervent, for a Day of such Power and Glory! It is amazing, when view'd in all its Importance, that the Thought is no more affecting, viz. That Thousands are going to Hell around us, for want of the Divine Influence from on high.

Doubtless you will want to know, how it has been with my own Soul during this Season. I have no Disposition to multiply Words, I shall only say, giving all Glory to God, my spiritual Exercises, divine Manifestations, Supports, Comforts, and Assistance, have borne some Proportion to the extraordinary Days. I know I want the Wisdom of *Gabriel*, the Zeal of a Seraphim, and the Purity of a Saint in Glory: May the Lord uphold me, or I cannot serve him. Pray hard for me, my dear Brother, and give all the Glory to the sacred Trinity, the whole and entire Glory; for thus it must be; and thus may it be, by both our Souls, and all in Heaven!



The

*The Copy of a Letter, from the Rev. Mr. Hazard,
of New-York, to another Minister in America.*

Rev. SIR,

New York, July 3, 1764.

THIS is chiefly to inform you, of a wonderful Work of God's Sovereign Grace, going on at the East End of *Long-Island*. Having had repeatedly most extraordinary Accounts of it, I set out on a Journey hence, to see for myself: And I must tell you, dear Sir, that I never before saw such a wonderful Display of God's Power and Grace; nor am I able to give you a just Idea of it: Take therefore the following Sketch, which I prevailed on Mr. *Buell* to give me, before I left *East-Hampton*. He wrote it in haste, just before I set off; it is as follows:

“ To give you a particular Account of the infinitely rich and sovereign Displays of Divine Grace, among the dear People of my Charge, would be to write a Volume in Folio. I am quite sensible that such a Work as this has often been misrepresented, to the Prejudice of many; while a just Representation has, under the Blessing of Heaven, been attended with happy Consequences to others. I heartily wish it was in my Power to present to your View, in a just Point of Light, the Essentials of this glorious Work of Sovereign Grace, which is indeed sufficient to astonish all Worlds; but I can only give you some Hints. The Work I now mention, and which, for about ten Weeks past, has gone on with amazing Power and Glory, in a Measure, had its Rise before: For about ten Weeks past, it broke out in the
Manner

Manner I now refer to, and was beginning and powerfully growing upon us. It first appeared in an increasing Solemnity, in our People, in hearing the Word preached, and the Increase of our Assemblies. And hereupon, soon after, in the powerful Effects of the Word preached. Sermons now began to be accompanied with the divine Influences; so that God's People were much quickened in the divine Life, and Sinners, in Numbers, began to be awakened to a serious, solemn Sense of the immense Weight of eternal Things: Now they began to see and perceive Truths, respecting God and themselves, in a more powerful, affecting Manner than ever before. They now began to see and lament their Exposedness to the divine Displeasure, and to beg for pardoning Mercy in good-carnest. Thus Things went on for some Weeks, until the Lord bowed the Heavens, and came down with his divine Influence, in a vastly more powerful Measure and Manner. Hundreds then were soon brought under serious and powerful Convictions of Sin and Misery, wounded at the Heart, like the Apostle Peter's Hearers, crying out, *Men and Brethren, what shall we do to be saved?* Day after Day, the Holy Spirit was poured out from on high, in a most copious Manner. Now the Light of Conviction of Sin and Misery, and the Sinner's Danger of eternal Damnation, as an infinitely just Dispensation, was most dear, powerful and affecting. The Lord now seemed to bow the Town as one Man; and this glorious Work appeared very universal, and, in many Respects, far more glorious and excellent than any I have ever known of this Kind. The Light of Conviction, by the Law and Spirit of God,

God, is clear, pungent, and powerful. Sinners are brought to view themselves in their own proper Characters; they have clear, affecting Discoveries of their exceeding Sinfulness, by Nature and Practice; of their spiritual Impotency, and Inability to help themselves; of their Unworthiness to be helped by God; and of his infinite Justice, if he should finally reject and cast them off for ever. In the Time of Believing, and Resignation of Soul unto the Lord, Illumination of Mind by the Holy Spirit, opening to View the glorious Object of Faith and Love, is clear, powerful, and attractive, so as to influence the whole Soul, to an entire Acquiescence with that glorious Method of Salvation, which infinite Wisdom and Love have devised, and the Gospel hath revealed. Hereupon follows, as a native and apparent Consequence, Admiration and Adoration of free and sovereign Grace, and Ascriptions of undissembled Praise, to the adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and holy Walking, Devotedness to God, Self-loathing, Mourning for Sin, as contrary to the Holiness of God, and an Abuse of his infinite Mercy. This Work appears remarkably free from any Mixture of imaginary Views; and enthusiastic Heats, Bitterness and Wrath; and the Spirit of it breathes Holiness, Love to God and Men, and whatever is Praise-worthy. It is still hopefully going on here, and is spreading abroad upon this Island; blessed be God! And I hope, and even believe it will, in the Lord's Time, spread the World over."——Thus far Mr. *Buell* to me.

The

The following is an Extract from a Letter of the Rev. Mr. Prime, of *Huntingdon*, to my Friend Mr. Hart, of *New-Jersey*.

“ If you have not heard, doubtless you will hear before this comes to Hand, of the glorious Displays of God's Power and Sovereign Grace, in a blessed Work of divine Quickening, Conviction and Conversion, on *Long-Island*, and in various Parts of *New-England*. As to our Island, the Work, I think, began at *East-Hampton*; and as it has been, so I hear it is still, very glorious there; perhaps beyond every Thing that ever has been known in *America*. The Body of a large Town bowed before the Lord; Scores hopefully converted in a Day; something similar to the Extraordinaries on the Day of Pentecost; a little Heaven on Earth. Not much inferior, in Power and Glory (by Account), is the Work at *Bridge-Hampton*: And it is very remarkable at *Southold*, in some of their Parishes. It is begun at *Smith-Town*, and also at *Huntingdon*, by the Power and Grace of Christ, under the Ministry of Mr. Buell, who has been among us lately, remarkably filled, as it were, with a seraphic Fire, kindled at *East-Hampton*, that little Heaven upon Earth. Of a Truth the Lord was with him, and he has done marvellous Things by him, in poor wretched *Huntingdon*. Blessed be the Name of the Lord! Most of our People appear to be very thoughtful, much solemnized, very ready to hear, and remarkably attentive under Preaching. Our Assemblies for religious Worship, not only on the Sabbath, but Week Days, are very much thronged. Many are under strong Convictions; and there are sundry
late

late Instances of Conversion among us: Glory be to God! The Fields are already white to the Harvest, and indeed it is plenteous: *Pray therefore unto the Lord of the Harvest, that he would send forth Labourers into his Harvest; for the Labourers are few.* O, pray for Zion, pray for us, and come over into our Macedonia, and help us yourself, and persuade others to do the same. Here is Work enough for many; and it is much wanted, especially at *Huntingdon*; for I am, in a great Measure, laid aside, as a broken Vessel, in which there is no Pleasure. As to public Preaching, I have attempted it but once for three Months, that is, Lord's Day was Se'nnight. Who knows the Grief and Burthen of such a Situation, unless it be he that feels it, especially at such a Season? Dear Sir, it is blessed Preaching when People are so eager to hear, and the Redeemer rides forth in the Chariot of his everlasting Gospel, conquering and to conquer. His Chariots, indeed, are Chariots of Salvation."——Thus far Mr. *Prime*.

It was supposed, that, at *East-Hampton* only, there were near Two Hundred Persons, that had experienced a saving Change: I conversed with a Number of them, as well as of those under Conviction; and there it appeared, that the Spirit of God taught them a rational, solemn, Bible-Religion. And I could not but observe, how nearly their religious Exercises agreed to the Religion set forth by *Edwards on Religious Affections*, and *Bellamy's Essay on the Gospel*. Mr. *Buell* seems to be possessed of uncommon Solemnity; and preaches like a Man that came out of his Closet, from off his Knees, before God, to deliver his Mes-

sage

sage to the People : He speaks to them, as though the Almighty JEHOVAH was present ; and as if it was the last Sermon he was to deliver to them, and as though both he and they were immediately going to God to be accountable. But Time will not permit me to add more, than that,

I am, &c.

NATHANIEL HAZARD.

F I N I S.



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