



[William Crosfield Letters](#)

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Katskill Mountain-
House Monday
August 18. 1839

My dear Maggie,

I have been thinking much of you today and feel as if I should like to ~~right~~ write on your birthday and wish you very many happy returns of the day. I do not think that I can amplify my two letters to mamma for I think I have spun two weary yarns, unfortunately both times under adverse circumstances, for on board the convenience for writing in my state room was a cipher and the second letter was most of it written yesterday in the bar room after a night of no sleep. We arrived at this delightful house at eight o'clock on Saturday night and found the house quite full and 20 people to be served before our batch of 70. However we could get plenty to eat which is a long stage on the road to a good night to a hungry man. Many were

the discussions of what was to and at last towards 2 o'clock
be done "Well sir what will you I got to sleep at 2.30 a sleepless soul
do for the night?" was on every lip would crack jokes and there was no
but all were good natured. Though hope for another winter so stories &c
all lost their beds none lost their order of the day till 4 when
tempers. As ⁱⁿ company the we got up and foraged for water
Remain fairly of it were here washed saw the sunrise after this
and held forth so it was late before night. Sat down as I said to write
the parlor was cleared. At about home a slow little flea. After breakfast
eleven I tried to sleep in a warm fast a gentleman came & asked
chair with my feet on a second came to join him in a walk and
just fell to sleep as I heard that he had a very long & interesting con-
versation about South American
ladies had all left the room up to conversation about South American
They were provided for in a reception hall - Newfoundland Labrador
room downstairs; so up I went with Mr. Plunk painter of "Heart
and found the ladies parlor empty of the Andes" and "Niagara" He has
so three of us who had chummed sat just returned from a tour he chartered
chairs together and bringing up a ship at St. John's and made the
carpet bags for pillows laid down circuit of Newf. land which he
we soon found that it was going describes as most grand and
to be a case of hip grinding as his statement that a precipice can-
started off to the stable yard to not be more than 300 ft high. Then
the coach cushions which we brought to Labrador 3 weeks ago
back in triumph and laid down was wearing 3 great coats 2 pairs of
there were six of us in the small woollen stockings no end of shirts
room and about 20 in the great 3 pair pantaloons - all at once
drawing room on the floor. We
had much fun amongst us

His account of some of the places
in America was most interesting
his manner is most gentlemanly and
unassuming even when I spoke in
-ly of his Niagara he seemed unwill-
to speak of it. I just missed a fine
chance a lady went down from her
on Saturday that another lady told
me I should have fallen in love with
right away. I have found very
pleasant people all throughout.
On the Persia an old lady her son
and daughter asked me to call and
see them in New York I have looked
that. Two very fine Yankee girls were
on board the Miss Esso was very
her father owns much property in S. A.
amongst the rest the new hotel, the
other was even prettier though look-
so she was only 15 years old! The
Nicholas Hotel astonished me beyond
anything I have seen yet hall after
hall contains crowds of company
as that in the hall I felt as if I was
really a stranger in a strange land
(stranger is a word that I have not
heard since landing) Really then
that if I had stayed another 24
hours I should have thrown myself

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from my bedroom (on the sixth
story) to the square sets of Broadway.
I felt even less cheerful than walking
in the Strand of all occupations the
dullest when you are alone everyone
seemed to have something else to do
some business of his town to see
after with out noticing him be-
you. Since leaving there I have not
been without a companion this
morning I had not left
I submitted when a gentleman
asked me to walk out with him
and his wife an exceedingly bright
lively young woman with whom
I have been playing tennis since
dinner. Another pleasant English
"Persian" girl is in the house and
makes an occasional companion
I shall stay here in the cool a day
or two and then go to Trenton Falls,
Niagara (where I shall perhaps find
better if I stay) then Brant, Mount
Quibic, Champlain, Saratoga,
Boston, Newport, N. Y. There is
some singing going on in the

drawing room so I must close
again I wish you many very
happy returns of today though
with you it is tomorrow (9 o'clock
evening August 8) and love to all
at Watkiss. I remain

my dear Maggie
your very affectionate brother

W. Crossfield

I have not made up my mind
how I shall see Mr. Mainwright. I have
passed Rhinbeck once but could
not stop I do not know how I
shall wrench myself from here
love to the Watkisses & the Prange
family