Eastburn, James Wallis

1. Trinity - Sunday Hymn in Prayer Book Collection, No. 77; beginning “Oh, holy, holy, holy Lord.”

2. The Summer Midnight - Lyric of 5 or 6 stanzas - Published in New York Commercial Advertiser.

3. Yarmoyden, a Tale of the Wars of King Philip. Published 1820. Written in company with his friend Robert C. Sands. (A poem on which his literary reputation more largely rests).
folded up the sermon, and put it back in its accustomed place. Again, however, his memory proved treacherous, and the sermon was again withdrawn in a similar manner, and when the purpose was answered, it was restored to its old hiding-place, and he went on with his discourse with unbroken composure. The narrator added,—“No one else could have done it without detracting from the solemnity of the occasion.”

The same friend also recalled another scene in connection with my father. It was in one of the early years of Bishop Meade’s Episcopate, and on the occasion of the meeting of the Virginia Episcopal Convention, in Christ Church, Alexandria, of which, at that time my father was pastor. The Bishop’s sermon before the Convention was on “the Responsibilities of the Ministry.” My father was observed to lay his face in both his hands, and weep bitterly. The next day, he arose before his congregation, and confessed his own short-comings in the most affecting manner. The Bishop was then in the prime of his power as a preacher; and I may add, as an interesting incident, though not connected with my father’s history, that the discourse alluded to led another distinguished clergyman, who has since become a Bishop, to say that if he had not already entered the ministry, he would not dare to do so.

I will only add one more anecdote—and that is illustrative of his power of attracting the young. A young lady, a member of his parish in Alexandria, met a young man with whom she was on intimate terms, and who asked her where she was going. “I am going to get Mr. Keith to explain a text to me,” was the answer. He said,—“Not that solemn looking man!” To this she replied,—“You had better come with me and get acquainted with him.” They went; and, as the lady told me herself, they could not bring themselves to leave his study for more than two hours, and not till it was actually dark.

I find that the great holiness of his life has made the strongest impression upon all. I have been told, in this connection, that his wife (my step-mother) would sometimes wake in the night, and find him kneeling in an agony of prayer for his charge.

These are but a small part of the illustrative anecdotes which might be furnished concerning him, but probably they are as many as your limits will allow you to record.

Yours very respectfully,

CLEVELAND KEITH.

---

JAMES WALLIS EASTBURN.*
1818—1819.

JAMES WALLIS EASTBURN, a son of James and Charlotte Eastburn, was born in the city of London, on the 26th of September, 1797. His father came with his family to this country, and settled in New York, as a merchant, in 1803. Subsequently, however, in consequence of the non-intercourse which led to the War, and which occasioned an entire suspension of commerce, he became an extensive publisher, and for many years kept one of the largest bookstores in the United States. As I remember him, I should say that he was a man of excellent sense, of very consider-

*Account of the Celebration of the First Semi-centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of Columbia College.—Memoir of Robert C. Sands, prefixed to his Works.—MSS. from Bishop Eastburn and G. B. Rapelye, Esq.
able cultivation, of urbane and gentlemanly manners, and altogether of high and honourable bearing. His admiration of Dr. Mason, with whom he was most intimate, seemed scarcely to have a limit. After the arrival of the family in New York, this son was put to a school taught by Malcolm Campbell, well known at that time as a classical teacher; was afterwards under the tuition of the Rev. Edmund D. Barry, D.D.,* of Trinity College, Dublin; and subsequently was placed with his younger brother (now Bishop Eastburn) at what was known extensively as the New York Grammar School, of which Dr. Mason was one of the Trustees. From this school he was removed to one under the care of the late Rev. Thomas T. Warner,† and his brother, H. H. Warner, Esq., and went thence to Union College. In the autumn of 1813, having taken his dismission from Union, he joined the Sophomore class in Columbia College, New York, where he graduated in 1816.

Having been early impressed with religious truth, he was confirmed at St. George’s, New York, and became a communicant not far from the time of his graduation. Shortly after this, he commenced his theological studies at Bristol, R. I., under the direction of the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold, and remained with him through his whole course. The following extract from a letter addressed by his father to Bishop Griswold, in acknowledgment of a letter of sympathy from the Bishop, on the occasion of young

* Edmund D. Barry was born at Kinsale, County of Cork, Ireland, in 1777, and in his nineteenth year entered Trinity College, Dublin. About this period the famous Irish rebellion broke out, which terminated so materially, especially for its leaders. The existence of a Society composed exclusively of students, whose professsion was to resist the measures of Government, came to the knowledge of the authorities of the College, and Mr. Barry was summoned before the Lord Chancellor, and ordered to reveal the names of his associates. On his declining to do this, the charge of contumacy was preferred against him, and he was obliged, in consequence, to leave the College, after an attendance of nearly three years, and embarked for the United States, where he was subsequently followed by Emmett, MeNevin, Sampson, and others. After his arrival here, he supported himself by teaching a school in which young men were fitted for College, and at the same time was pursuing his studies immediately preparatory to the ministry. He was ordained by Bishop Moore in the year 1804, just about the time when the French congregation changed its relation from the Church of Geneva to the Protestant Episcopal Church,—and became Assistant Minister to the Rev. Mr. Albert, the Rector; the former officiating in English, and the latter in French. This connection lasted only between the years 1805 and 1807, when it was dissolved by the death of the Rector. Mr. Barry, however, continued his school until 1816, when he removed to Baltimore, and became Professor of Languages in the University of Maryland. Here he remained for eight years, and then returned to the city of New York, and resumed his school there, at the same time officiating in a small congregation in Jersey City. This arrangement continued until a few years before his death, when, the congregation having gained so much strength as to be able to erect a decent edifice (St. Matthew’s Church) and to afford Dr. Barry a comfortable support, he abandoned his school, and devoted himself entirely to the ministry. Several of the present Bishops and many of the inferior Clergy have been prepared for College under his tuition. He was honoured with the degree of Doctor of Divinity about the year 1819. He died as Rector at Jersey City on the 20th of April, 1832, in the forty-ninth year of his ministry, and the seventy-fifth year of his age.

† Pierre Antoine Albert, above referred to, was born in 1778, in Lausanne, Canton of Bern, Switzerland. He was admitted to the ministry of the Church of Geneva, and officiated for some time in his native country. He came to the United States in 1797, having accepted a call to the Pastorate of the French Church in the City of New York. In 1806, the greater part of the congregation being Episcopalians, it was resolved to adopt the Episcopal mode of worship. The Church (Du St. Esprit) was consecrated, and Mr. Albert was reorganized by Bishop Moore, to qualify him to officiate in conformity to the resolution. He died in the forty-first year of his age. He is represented as having been “an accomplished gentleman, an erudite scholar, a profound theologian, and a most elegant and exemplary preacher.”
Eastburn's death, reveals a fact of great interest concerning him, which, otherwise, might not have transpired:—

"There is one most interesting fact, which James communicated to his mother, and which I feel it my duty to mention to you. When he went to Bristol, he was, externally, a Christian, without reproach; but he said, 'his heart was unchanged, and his views unsanctified.' He added,—'It was under your searching ministry that light first broke in upon his mind, and was followed by an entire renewal of heart, and a consequent change in all his views.' It was this circumstance, in connection with many others, which determined the nature, and fixed the strength, of his attachment to you."

He was admitted to Deacon's Orders by Bishop Hobart, in Trinity Church, New York, on the 20th of October, 1818. Almost immediately after his ordination, he became Rector of St. George's, Accomack County, Va., where he had a very brief, but uncommonly successful, ministry. His fine talents and remarkable acquirements were laid as an humble offering at the foot of the Cross; and the one great work of saving souls awakened all his zeal, and enlisted all his energies. During a ministry of about eight months, he was instrumental, as he believed, in the hopeful conversion of seventeen persons. Bishop Meade, in alluding to him in his "Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia," says,—

"From every account we have received of him, whether from New York or Accomack, he must have been one of the most interesting and talented young men of our land. He came to Virginia at a time when ample material still remained in Accomack for the exercise of his pious zeal, and it was exercised most diligently in all the departments of ministerial duty, but especially in the instruction of the young by means of Sunday Schools. He is still spoken of in the families of Accomack as 'that extraordinary young man.'"

Mr. Eastburn had naturally a good constitution; but he had always through life applied himself too closely to study, and the severe winter climate of Bristol gave him a cold which was the precursor of the malady that terminated his life. In the summer of 1819, in consequence of his excessive labours, he was attacked with bleeding at the lungs, and he returned to his father's in New York, with consumption evidently fastened upon him. About the close of November, he sailed with his mother and brother (the Bishop) for Santa Cruz; and on the 4th day after leaving port, 2d of December, he expired; and was buried at sea. There is a monument to his memory, in St. George's, Beekman Street, New York, executed by Frazee, with a Latin inscription by Robert C. Sands.

Mr. Eastburn's publications, though not numerous, have impressed his name indelibly on the literary history of his country. At the age of eighteen, he composed the beautiful Trinity-Sunday Hymn in the Prayer Book Collection, No. 77; beginning,—"Oh, holy, holy, holy Lord." &c. In 1819, during his residence in Virginia, he composed an exquisite lyric, of five or six stanzas, entitled "The Summer Midnight," which appeared, shortly after, in the New York Commercial Advertiser. He was also the author of various anonymous Essays in different periodicals, which, in their day, attracted no small attention. But that with which probably his literary reputation is more identified than any thing else, is the Poem entitled "Yamoyden, a Tale of the Wars of King Philip," which he composed in company with his friend, Robert C. Sands, and which was edited by the latter, and published in 1820.
FROM THE REV. JAMES ROMEYN, D. D.

NEW BURLINGTON, N. J., March 29, 1858.

Dear Brother: You are right in supposing that James Wallis Eastburn was my classmate at Columbia College; but I regret to say that, owing partly to impaired health, affecting in some degree my memory, and partly to the lapse of years, I have only the most general recollections of him. I knew him well, but was never in the most intimate relations with him. I am not sure that I ever saw him after we parted at Commencement in 1816, and the most striking fact that I remember to have heard concerning him was that he had, in an almost incredibly short time, written out fifty sermons! Of course I do not vouch for the truth of it.

Of his person I retain a vivid recollection. I think he was about five feet nine inches in height, with rather sharp features and an intelligent expression of countenance. His large feet and remarkably long taper fingers are yet in my mind's eye. His habits were retiring, and his intimacies restricted to a few; and there was probably less of freedom and grace in his movements and manners than there would have been if his tastes had led him to mingle more in general society. The late Robert C. Sands was his Jonathan. I remember that they conjointly projected and executed a Poem called "Yamoyden," and so very similar was the structure of their minds that it would not have occurred to you that the whole Poem had not a common origin. He had an extraordinary facility in composition and in chirography. He had an exuberance of wit, and a quiet mirthfulness, without any approach to the boisterous. His disposition was gentle and kind, and well fitted to endear him to those with whom he was intimate. His love of books was intense; and his father spared no pains to gratify his taste, and surround him with those influences which were favourable to the culture of his intellect. I remember him altogether as having been an agreeable and profitable companion.

To make up for the scantiness of my own recollections, I take the liberty to add the following beautiful tribute to his memory, from an Oration delivered by his brother, the present Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, at the celebration of the First Semi-centennial Anniversary of the Incorporation of Columbia College.

"I shall not apologize for here introducing the name of the late Rev. James Wallis Eastburn. For I feel the firm conviction that, while I am weaning a garland of fraternal affection to hang upon a brother's tomb, I am performing an office in which many whom I now see would gladly join me;—many in whose memory still dwells the recollection of his refinement, his various attainments, his simplicity unfeigned; many also, who, though they never knew him, have seen some of the effusions of his mature and richly furnished mind. Congeniality of tastes led him to the formation, during his College days, of an intimacy with Sands, which lasted until death. It was during the period of this literary friendship that, as the public already know, he formed, and, in company with Sands, executed, the design of embodying in a poetical narrative the fortunes of Philip, the Rhode Island Indian King. Pursuing his preparation for Holy Orders in the immediate vicinity of Mount Hope, the residence of this fated chieftain, he found in these scenes a strong excitement for his imagination; and was enabled to give the most perfect accuracy to the local descriptions of the Poem. This work, completed and arranged by Sands, after the death of his friend, is now before the world; and, with all the defects to be expected from the early age of both its composers, has acquired for itself the character of an uncommon production."

"The remains which Eastburn has left behind him are amazingly voluminous. I will venture to say that there are few who, on arriving at the age of twenty-two, which was the limit of his mortal career, will be found to have accomplished
so much literary composition. His prose writings, many of which appeared anonymously, in a series of periodical essays, conducted by himself and some of his friends, take in an extensive range of moral and classical disquisition; and are models of the purest Addisonian English. The great charm, however, of all his writings is the tone that breathes through them. Whatever be the subject, the reader is never allowed to forget that the pages before him are indited with a pen, dipped in the dew of Heaven."

With much regard, yours,
JAMES ROMEYN.

FROM THE REV. MAURICE W. DWIGHT, D. D.

Brooklyn, April 16, 1858.

My dear Sir: Your request respecting my early and lamented friend, Eastburn, I cheerfully comply with. We entered College together in 1812, and were members of the same Society, as well as the same Class. Excepting the late Robert C. Sands, who belonged to the class above us, but was connected with him in some literary engagements, no individual was more intimate with him than myself.

Your letter, waking up the recollections of years long since passed away, has brought him before me in all the freshness of early manhood, his heart expanding with generous emotions, and nobly aspiring not after worldly distinctions, but after the qualifications necessary to extended usefulness. Though a young man, surrounded with temptations, and connected more or less closely with many who yielded to their influence, he never strayed from the right path. Gentle and affectionate in his disposition, and unaffected in his manners, he was respected and loved by all who knew him. His taste was for the classics and belles lettres, rather than the severer branches of study; and his classical attainments were equal, if not superior, to those of any other member of his class. To a thorough acquaintance with Greek and Latin he added such a knowledge of French and Italian as enabled him to read the best authors in those languages with ease and fluency. A large proportion of his time was spent in general reading, by means of which he acquired an amount and variety of information seldom possessed at his age. But though his resources were such as qualified him to write with ease on any subject, yet, from diffidence or some other cause, he was far from being a ready extemporaneous speaker. Like Addison, his mind would not work freely, when he took the floor in debate; but let him take pen in hand, and he was perfectly at his ease, and in a very short time would produce a well digested and instructive essay, on a subject upon which he found it difficult to utter even a few words extempore. He was much devoted to literature, and the productions of his pen that have been given to the world, especially the Poem on the Wars of King Philip, which was the joint production of himself and his friend Sands, secured to him no inconsiderable degree of literary fame.

His talents were unquestionably of a high order, and, with his habits of industry, would, if he had been spared, have given him a high rank among the distinguished men of his country. He wrote with great facility, and showed himself possessed of ample resources for both argument and illustration, on any subject to which his mind applied itself. In the days of his youth he became sensible of the unsatisfying nature of earthly things, and in his manhood he seemed to be almost a stranger to those workings of the soul which are ever goading men to the pursuit of gain, or honour, or power, or disposing them to wastefully in scenes of amusement. He was sober-minded, yet always cheerful. His mind was early set upon the ministry, and his grand object evidently was to qualify himself thoroughly for the discharge of its duties. Much as he loved learning, and strove to enrich himself with its varied treasures, it was not with ostentations
views, or through a fondness for admiration. Humble in his views as well as feelings, he desired a home where he might devote himself to the improvement and salvation of a plain, simple-minded, honest-hearted people. To such a place the hand of Providence directed him; and there, in the spirit of the true man of God, he spent the brief period of life that was allotted to him. Nor was his strength spent for naught. He was an eloquent preacher, a faithful pastor, a wise counsellor, a devoted friend. Too soon, alas! removed from the sphere he was so admirably fitted to adorn and bless.

With great respect and consideration,
I am yours truly,

M. W. DWIGHT.

JASPER ADAMS, D. D.*
1819—1841.

JASPER ADAMS was born in East Medway, Mass., August 27, 1793. The first sixteen years of his life he spent upon his father's farm, where he obtained a plain English education. At the age of seventeen, he resolved on obtaining a collegiate education, and commenced his preparatory studies under the instruction of the Rev. Luther Wright, the Congregational minister of his native place; and so diligent was his application that he was fitted to enter College the following year. He, accordingly, entered Brown University at the age of eighteen, and graduated in 1815, taking the second honour in his class.

Mr. Adams had been educated a Congregationalist; but, during his College course, his mind was directed to the arguments in favour of Episcopacy, the result of which was that, when he made a public profession of religion, he joined the Episcopal Church. It had been his early purpose to study Medicine; but the change in his religious feelings, which led him to become a communicant in the Church, led him also to direct his attention to the Christian Ministry. On leaving College, he went to Andover to pursue the study of Theology at the Theological Seminary, and at the same time accepted the place of assistant teacher in the Andover Academy. At the close of this term, in 1818, he accepted an invitation to return to the College at which he had graduated, in the capacity of Tutor; and, having served in that capacity for a year, he was chosen, in 1819, to the Professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in that institution. On the 2d of September, in this year, he was ordained Deacon, by Bishop Griswold, and Priest shortly after.

He retained his connection with Brown University until 1824, when he accepted an invitation to become Principal of the College in Charleston, S. C. This institution had had, for many years, only a dubious existence, but an effort was now made to resuscitate it, and fix it upon a permanent basis. Mr. Adams was encouraged to believe that the enterprise might succeed,
DIED: At sea, 2d December, on his passage to St. Croix, whither he was going for the benefit of his health, Rev. James Wallis Eastburn, A.M., aged 22.

Columbian Centinel
Boston, Mass.
Jan. 19, 1820.
James Wallis Eastburn, poet, was born in London, England, Sept. 26, 1797, son of James Eastburn and brother of Rev. Manton Eastburn, P. E. bishop of Massachusetts. In 1803 he came to America with his father and family, and entering Columbia College was graduated in the class of 1816. He studied theology under Bishop Griswold, of Rhode Island; was ordained deacon, Oct. 20, 1818, by Bishop Hobart, in Trinity Church, New York city, and soon after became rector of St. George's Church, Accomac county, Va. At the age of eighteen he wrote the admirable Trinity hymn, "O Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord," besides versions of some of the psalms, and was a contributor to various periodicals. Some of his poems are very graceful. In conjunction with his friend, Robert C. Sands, he produced a poem called "Yamoyden," a tale founded on the wars of King Philip, which was published in 1818. His brother, Bishop Eastburn, wrote: "The remains which Eastburn left behind him are amazingly voluminous. I will venture to say that there are few, who, on arriving at the age of twenty-two, which was the limit of his mortal career, will be found to have accomplished so much literary composition. The charm, however, of all his writings, is the tone that breathes through them. Whatever be the subject, the reader is never allowed to forget that the pages before him are indited with a pen dipped in the dews of heaven." After less than a year's ministry his health failed, and in November, 1819, he sailed for Vera Cruz with his mother and brother. Before reaching his destination he died, Dec. 2, 1819.

The N. C. of A. B. Vol. IX. Page 237.
Died: On the 2nd of December last, aged 22 years, on his passage to St. Croix whither he was going for the benefit of his health, the Rev. James Wallis Eastburn, A.M., son of Mr. James Eastburn of this city, and late minister of St. George's, Accomac, Va. — New-York Advertiser, Jan. 17, 1820.

"Absent or dead, still let a friend be near."
"A sigh the absent claims, the dead a tear."

Died: on the 2nd of Dec. last, on his passage to St. Croix, whither he was going for his health, the Rev. James W. Eastburn, A.M., eldest son of James Eastburn, esq., and late minister to St. George's, Accomac, Va. To bestow a tribute to departed worth is at all times laudable, but more particularly so, when we are called to witness the death of a person cut off in the prime of life, and in the midst of usefulness; it conveys to us a lesson that should teach the uncertainty of all human expectations, and furnishes another proof that youth, virtue, and every quality which can tend to make us respected and beloved, afford no security from the grasp of death. This young gentleman received his education at Columbia College, distinguished for superior talents, his time and attention were constantly employed in the improvement and cultivation of his mind; amiable in his disposition, and pleasing in his deportment, he gained the esteem and affection of all his companions; as a scholar few were superior, as a friend none. He passed through this institution with honors and distinction, and received the degree of A.B. at the commencement of 1816. Shortly after receiving his degree, he entered upon the study of divinity under the care of the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold, (Bristol, R. I.) and the degree of A.M. was awarded him in 1819 by the institution from which he was graduated. He was a member of the Peitho-Logian Society of C.C., and at their different exhibitions contributed by his productions to its advancement and respectability, and gave early promise of future eminence; the records of this society fully testify to his value and usefulness. He has left affectionate parents and relations to mourn his irreparable loss; the numerous friends to whom he was endeared for his many and amiable virtues will long remember his value and his worth. This feeble testimony to the memory of a person so respected, is the production of an associate, who admired his character, and whose memory he will for a long time fondly cherish.

New-York Advertiser Jan. 21, 1820

(Short verse follows) — Signed "C.C.C."

JAMES WALLACE EASTBURN, non-graduate of 1815, of New York City, was a member of the Adelphic Society. He died in 1819.

Adelphic Catalogue 1850
Died: on the 2nd of December last, aged 22 years, on his passage to St. Croix, whither he was going for the benefit of his health, the Rev. James Wallis Eastburn, A. M., son of Mr. James Eastburn, of this city, and late Minister of St. George's, Accomac, Virginia. --New York Advertiser, Jan. 17, 1820.

OBITUARY

"Absent or dead, still let a friend be near.
A sigh the absent claims, the dead a tear."

Died: on the 2nd of Dec. last, on his passage to St. Croix, whither he was going for his health, the Rev. James W. Eastburn, A. M., eldest son of James Eastburn, esq., and late Minister to St. George's, Accomac, Virginia. To bestow a tribute to departed worth is at all times laudable, but more particularly so, where we are called to witness the death of a person cut off in the prime of life, and in the midst of usefulness; it conveys to us a lesson that should teach the uncertainty of all human expectations, and furnishes another proof that youth, virtue, and every quality which can tend to make us respected and beloved, afford no security from the grasp of death. This young gentleman received his education at Columbia College, distinguished for superior talents, his time and attention were constantly employed in the improvement and cultivation of his mind; amiable in his disposition, and pleasing in his deportment, he gained the esteem and affection of all his companions; as a scholar few were superior, as a friend none. He passed through this institution with honor and distinction, and received the degree of A. B. at the commencement of 1816. Shortly after receiving his degree, he entered upon the study of Divinity under the care of the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold, (Bristol, R. I.) and the degree of A. M. was awarded him in 1819 by the institution from which he was graduated. He was a member of the Peitho-Logian Society of C. C., and at their different exhibitions contributed by his productions to its advancement and respectability, and there gave early promise of future eminence; the records of this society fully testify to his value and usefulness. He has left affectionate parents and relations to mourn his irreparable loss; the numerous friends to whom he was endeared for his many and amiable virtues will long remember and value this worth. This feeble testimony to the memory of a person so respected, is the production of an associate, who admired his character, and whose memory he will for a long time fondly cherish.

(Short verse follows.)--Signed "C. C. C."

New York Advertiser, Jan. 21, 1820.
Another early poet of the church was James Wallis Eastburn, who died in 1819, the year after his ordination. With his friend, Robert G. Sands, he wrote Yamoyden, a Tale of the Wars of King Philip, a poem of six cantos. This is not primarily a religious poem, but its clear merit breeds a feeling of regret that Eastburn could not have lived long enough to develop the real poetic ability that shows in it. In council the Sachem turned

To that Great Spirit, who ne'er inhales incense from all the odorous gales.

But an old man, Bible in hand, addressing the Christians, recalled the sufferings of the early Pilgrim settlers at the hands of the Indians, and observed that

O'er pagan and apostate foes
The Church of God triumphant rose
Till now, o'er wilds where murder swayed
Her branches cast their sacred shade.

We must credit Eastburn with what seems to be the first American hymn which emanated from within the Episcopal Church. It was written in 1815, and begins:

O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Bright in thy deeds and in Thy Name,
Forever by Thy Name adored,
Thy glories let the world proclaim.*

*Hutchins Hymnal, No. 137. Young Eastburn left other poems in manuscript (cf. Sands, Introduction to Yamoyden, v.1) but evidently they were never printed.

Education in the Episcopal Church p. 309
Clifton Hartwell Brewer
New Haven 1924
JAMES WALLIS EASTBURN

A son of James and Charlotte Eastburn, was born in the city of London, on the 26th of September, 1797. His father came with his family to this country, and settled in New York, as a merchant, in 1803. Subsequently, however, in consequence of the non-intercourse which led to the War, and which occasioned an entire suspension of commerce, he became an extensive publisher, and for many years kept one of the largest bookstores in the United States. As I remember him, I should say that he was a man of excellent sense, of very considerable cultivation, of urban and gentlemanly manners, and altogether of high and honorable bearing. His admiration of Dr. Mason, with whom he was most intimate, seemed scarcely to have a limit. After the arrival of the family in New York, this son was put to a school taught by Malcolm Campbell, well known at that time as a classical teacher; was afterwards under the tuition of the Rev. Edmund D. Barry, D. D., of Trinity College, Dublin; and subsequently was placed with his younger brother (now Bishop Eastburn) at what was known extensively as the New York Grammar School, of which Dr. Mason was one of the Trustees. From this school he was removed to one under the care of the late Rev. Thomas T. Warner, and his brother H. H. Warner, Esq., and went thence to Union College. (Thomas T. Warner was a graduate of Union College in the Class of 1808). In the autumn of 1812, having taken his dismission from Union, he joined the Sophomore class in Columbia College, New York, where he graduated in 1815.

Having been early impressed with religious truth, he was confirmed at St. George’s, New York, and became a communicant not far from the time of his graduation. Shortly after this, he commenced his theological studies at Bristol, R. I., under the direction of the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold, and remained with him through his whole course. The following extract from a letter addressed by his father to Bishop Griswold, in acknowledgment of a letter of sympathy from the Bishop, on the occasion of young Eastburn’s death, reveals a fact of great interest concerning him, which otherwise, might not have transpired:

"There is one most interesting fact, which James communicated to his mother, and which I feel it my duty to mention to you. When he went to Bristol, he was, externally a Christian, without reproach; but he said 'his heart was unchanged, and his views unsanctified.' He added, 'it was under your searching ministry that light first broke in upon his mind, and was followed by an entire renewal of heart, and a consequent change in all his views.' It was this circumstance, in connection with many others, which determined the nature, and fixed the strength, of his attachment to you."

He was admitted to Deacon’s Orders by Bishop Hobart, in Trinity Church, New York, on the 20th of October, 1816. Almost
immediately after his ordination, he became Rector of St. George's, Accomac County, Va., where he had a very brief, but uncommonly successful, ministry. His fine talents and remarkable acquirements were laid as an humble offering at the foot of the Cross; and the one great work of saving souls awakened all his zeal, and enlisted all his energies. During a ministry of about eight months, he was instrumental, as he believed, in the hopeful conversion of seventeen persons. Bishop Meade, in alluding to him in his "Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia," says,—

"From every account we have received of him, whether from New York or Accomac, he must have been one of the most interesting and talented young men of our land. He came to Virginia at a time when ample material still remained in Accomac for the exercise of his pious zeal, and it was exercised most diligently in all departments of ministerial duty, but especially in the instruction of the young by means of Sunday Schools. He is still spoken of in the families of Accomac as 'that extraordinary young man!'

Mr. Eastburn had naturally a good constitution; but he had always through life applied himself too closely to study, and the severe winter climate of Bristol gave him a cold which was the precursor of the malady that terminated his life. In the summer of 1819, in consequence of his excessive labours, he was attacked with bleeding at the lungs, and he returned to his father's home in New York, with consumption evidently fastened upon him. About the close of November, he sailed with his mother and brother (the Bishop) for Santa Cruz; and on the 4th day after leaving port, 2nd of December, he expired; and was buried at sea. There is a monument to his memory, in St. George's, Beekman St., N. Y., executed by Frazee, with a Latin inscription by Robert C. Sands.

Mr. Eastburn's publications, though not numerous, have impressed his name indelibly on the literary history of his country. At the age of eighteen, he composed the beautiful Trinity-Sunday Hymn in the Prayer Book Collection, No. 77; beginning,—"Oh, holy, holy, holy Lord," etc. In 1819, during his residence in Virginia, he composed an exquisite lyric, of five or six stanzas, entitled "The Summer Midnight," which appeared, shortly after, in the New York Commercial Advertiser. He was also the author of various anonymous Essays in different periodicals, which, in their day attracted no small attention. But that with which probably his literary reputation is more identified than anything else, is the Poem entitled "Yamoyden, a Tale of the Wars of King Philip," which he composed in company with his friend, Robert C. Sands, and which was edited by the latter, and published in 1820.

FROM Annals of the American Pulpit Vol. 5

William B. Sprague

Robert Carter & Brothers New York 1859.
This lovely and highly-gifted youth was an elder brother of the late Rt. Rev. Dr. Manton Eastburn, of Boston, Mass., He was the son of James and Charlotte Eastburn, of London, England, where he was born, September 20, 1797. The family emigrated, in 1803, to the City of New York, and there his father became first a merchant, and then a bookseller and publisher of wide repute. The son was a pupil successively of Mr. Malcolm Campbell, Rev. Edmund D. Barry, D. D., the New York Grammar School, and Rev. Thomas T. Warner. (Union 1808). He entered Union College, in 1812, but the following year, was transferred to Columbia College, graduating, with a high reputation for scholarship, in 1816.

About the time of his graduation he became a communicant in St. George's Church, New York, of which Dr. James Milnor had just become the Rector. Having devoted himself to the work of the ministry, he pursued his studies at Bristol, R.I., under the instruction of Bishop A.V. Griswold. Under the faithful ministry of this godly divine, he grew rapidly in spiritual life, and entered most fully upon a career of Christian usefulness. He was ordained a deacon, Oct. 20, 1818, in Trinity Church, by Bishop Hobart. He now became the Rector of St. George's, Accomack Co., Eastern Shore, Va. After a brief and most successful service of eight months, during which he won the high esteem and ardent love of his parish, he was compelled, by hemorrhage of the lungs, to relinquish his charge, and to return, July, 1819, to his father's house in New York. Consumption speedily reduced his remaining strength, and, four days after embarking with his mother and brother Manton for Santa Cruz, terminated his mortal life, December 2, 1819. His remains were committed to the deep.

Short as was his life (22 years), Mr. Eastburn had acquired an enviable literary reputation. At the age of sixteen, his second year in college, he was associated with Robert Charles Sands, his bosom-friend henceforward, in conducting a periodical, called The Moralist. At eighteen, he composed his hymn for Trinity Sunday,

"O holy, holy, holy Lord! " etc.,

which, in 1826, was included in the Collection attached the E35 (U.S.) "Book of Common Prayer." During his residence near Mount Hope, Bristol, formerly the home of Philip, the renowned Sachem of the Pequods, he became so fascinated with the romantic story of the Indian King, that, in company with Sands, he began, November, 1817, to write a poetic history of the tribe. His part of the work was completed in the summer of 1818. The poem was finished and published, in 1820, by Sands, with a touching Poem, commemorative of Eastburn.
His literary "remains," says his brother, "are amazingly voluminous... His prose writings... take in an extensive range of moral and classical disquisition, and are models of the purest Addisonian English... Whatever be the subject... the pages are indited with a pen dipped in the dew of heaven."

After a glorious night, in June, 1819, spent, until after midnight, beneath the open expanse of heaven, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, he penned that beautiful piece of six double stanzas, called "The Summer Midnight," of which the following are the first and last stanzas:

"The breeze of night has sunk to rest,
Upon the river's tranquil breast,
And every bird has sought her nest,
Where silent is her minstrelsy;
The queen of heaven is sailing high,—
A pale bark on the azure sky,
Where not a breath is heard to sigh,—
So deep the soft tranquility.

"There is an hour of deep repose,
That yet upon my heart shall close,
When all that nature dreads, and knows,
Shall burst upon me wondrously;
Oh! may I then awake forever
My harp to rapture's high endeavor,
And, as from earth's vain scene I sever,
Be lost in immortality."

The Poets of the Church
pp.222-224
Edwin F. Hatfield
Anson D.F. Randolph & Co.
New York
1884.