Margaret Livingston to John Kean, 1788

Margaret Livingston
My Dear Sir,

How grateful and flattering is the attention of those we love and value. This has set the highest pleasure upon the seeds and exotic which I have had the honor of receiving in excellent order and which I hope you will yet find interesting when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you here – give me leave to congratulate you upon the birth of your son. May the Almighty shrowd him to you and his brother to prove a blessing to you both. I have not had it in my power in any other way than by my prayers and good wishes to prove to your lady in the time of affliction and trial that I should never lose sight of her being the daughter of the friend of my heart and soul. and the wife of my friend. this and her own merit shall ever attach me to her. I have not been to New York since I saw you all my family have except Sally whom nothing could prevail upon to go to Town – you know the cause – she possesses uncommon fortitude. but sometimes her heart feels it weight – it is now a whole year since he has ceased to breathe his entrance. I have accomplished a work I have long had in contemplation filling up the great hollow between this house and the farm house you will observe I am sure that it is a very great im-
Improvement the fences are removed and the whole is now a pretty town. Edward and his wife are now here, she is really a fine girl. I feel happy in their union of which I am sure you will take part. The new constitution is a very hard moral, it will not go down, I fear, with this state in the nation. I will think as they finished yesterday. But Dutchess is much divided, Ulster and Orange are antifederal. Albany divided. But it is said Long Island and Staten Island and Yorks have the majority. This much for politics. I send you 3 green gage trees and one peach. They are small as we had a terrible fall of rain which casued the trees with such an enormous load of ice as tore them to shivers. I have lost almost all my bearing peaches in my garden. Nothing here in the thing, but what you have unless it be the Guilder Rose and bitter sweet. I sent some of these I sent up to agree. I hope they will come in order when you plant and some thing over the trees to shade them for a month as your sun will be too hot for your trees. May the divine blessing attend you at all times and restore health to your body and happiness to you. And is the prayer of a son. Yours M. Livingston
The Hon. John Hanan Esq.

Beaufort

State, South Carolina

To the care of Mr. John Hanan

Mr. B. Lewis

[Note: The text appears to be a letter addressed to The Hon. John Hanan, Esq., at Beaufort, State, South Carolina, in care of Mr. John Hanan. There are handwritten notes and some illegible text present.]