Robert Livingston to John Kean, March 17, 1789

Robert Cambridge Livingston

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New York March 17th 1789

Dear Sir,

On the 20th. Feb. I did myself the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your favor of 13th. Dec. and mentioned that the bark of Indigo sent on your account by Mr. A. Chevalier was arrived. Since which I have endeavored to vend it without success. It may be imputed to a large quantity being at market and no purchases as our communication with the country continues interrupted by the inclemency of the season. This Indigo (if it is all of one quality) appears to be worth about 6l. and tho’ it may be difficult to sell it at present at any price yet as soon as we renew our intercourse with the country I hope to dispose of it at some price—of which you shall be advised.

Agreeable to your desire I have advanced Miss Eliza Raynard £22— to purchase Sunday articles for Mr. Keen which are in a box directed to her.

I endeavored to procure a small vessel to convey your furniture to Beaufort in which I failed—I then applied to the Charleston packet, none of which would engage to go there.
there, even at double freight. This obliged me to ship them to Charleston on board the sloop consigned to Mr. A. Chisolm agreeable to the enclosed list which is sent to him to be forwarded to you.

Mr. Cruickshanks says he cannot complete the bookcase. I bid steady till the next opportunity — he told me he could not find the kitchen table. He was offered one which he was sure you had not left there.

Miss Conyn's bed (was also in the occupancy of Mr. George not Major Stans.) which is enclosed in the cupboard & hope will arrive safe.

Miss Bayard wrote one she had not time to purchase the tea for you. I have therefore sent you 2 do of Hyson (just arrived from Holland) which I believe is much better than was in store when I wrote you last — also 2 do. common green tea. As I could not procure any Chessy that was good — for this of inferior quality they ask 13/-

If Capt. Snell can procure any freight at Charleston for Beaufort. He is to proceed with your furniture and is to receive double freight — to which effect write Mr. Chisolm.
Accept my thanks for your advice respecting an estate in Georgia. The constitution of a country is an object of consideration. The difficulty of obtaining Negroes at the advanced price of them together with the reduction of the value of your produce must alter our calculations. I imagine both the price of lands & produce will descend to the value they sustained prior to the war — Negroes will probably be higher.

The unpleasant season is approaching so fast as to forbid my visiting Georgia till the ensuing winter by which time we shall be able to form a judgment respecting the above circumstances. In the interim I hope some object may present itself to you & my good friend Mr. Saunders merits my attention.

G. Waine asks £2,500 for 650 acres — 150 of which is swamp with buildings.

Mr. Seagrove asks £3,000 for 500 acres swamp & 500 upland — being his Island near Ogeechee ferry. Are these lands the best? They are without any improvements. The ogeechee lands are porous. Major Butler asks £3,000 for half his Island in the Alachameka — say about 700 acres of the best unimproved swamp. This situation appears to me to be exposed to the Inlets of Cinemico — Mr. Livington joins me in affection to our good cousin of whose health & welfare we flatter ourselves you will be so obliging as always to inform us when leisure will admit you to be with great esteem & affection your most humble servt.

[Signature]
I could not prevail on Mr. Nixon to receive the freight of the furniture in paper money without making the discount. I have therefore left it at Mr. Chiswell's option to pay the freight £18.19.6. York. Carr in paper money, or the discount at his option.

Besides the goods mentioned in the list, Mr. Chiswell will send you there are
1 small box, directed to Mr. Lean — sent by Miss Maynard.
1 box strawberry roots
1 basket with 2 bottles peach water & garden seeds
2 paper bundles each containing 200 pea — directed to you.

The family at Elizabethtown write you —
the old gentleman has let his house in Hanover Square (for Major Butler) 3 £200. yearly.
Mr. Lean continues in the house he now occupies. I suppose at the old rent.

Politics are not in my department. I must therefore refer you to your other correspondents for information on this subject — however, I may mention that Congress expect to have a quorum to transact business this week — Major Banks is in expectation of being the ambassador to carry the tidings to Genl. Washington of his election. In this it is said Genl. Webb means to be his competitor.

The old members of the old Congress meet daily — a adjourn — Mr. Buckleigh has lost an intimate friend on himself by being too cold a weather price of dress is only adapted to invalids — she is well. They return I suppose with Capt. election in 3 or 4 weeks.

I believe my politeness requires a long apology — your politeness must supply me with one — I pardon the intrusion — adieu —