John Kean to Susan Kean, April 8, 1787

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After a pleasant passage I arrived here the sixth instant & found the place of my earthly habitation somewhat improved since I left it. A few small houses built, many vacant lots fenced in, gardens made—my friends and acquaintances wearing the same pleasant faces as ever they did—these are objects which give a secondary kind of pleasure—my first being the love of my Susan & the making her happy.

I find the eye of the master has been much wanted during my absence—this will be another incentive to my returning as early as possible.

Find the cause of my losing my Crop on two places to have arisen from the want of a directing head who at the same time possessed industry enough to see his orders executed; at the third place the hand of heaven was against me—an insect called the Cricket destroyed all the Indigo except about five acres, when it was about three inches high—it is to be hoped I shall do better hereafter—if not God knows the
consequence — money not to be had of the people indebted allows to every honest sentiment, as it respects the discharge of their debts —

Your maid whom I intended to bring with me is so em bon point that she cannot possibly move until she disturbs herself which will not be in time for our purposes — you will therefore my dear provide yourself with such an one as will suit your purpose.

I have had an offer made me to rent my estates for three years, so as to rid me of all trouble relative to plantation matters — they offer me about £700 5s a year — I ask £800 & think they are worth it if I could attend to the management of them, but I have never as yet made more than £5 or £600 a year with them & had all their expenses to pay — now they are to pay all expenses & to pay me that sum clear — my interest money & other rents with a part of this sum would maintain us & I should have £500 a year towards discharging my debts — added to which I mean next spring to try & dispose of all my
lands in Georgia, if they will bring me but £6 or £8000 & you are willing they shall go, as that sum will put me on so clear a footing that I shall have nothing to fear & our £700 a year will maintain us very well - if you can write me in time tell me what you think I best do in the matter -

If I was a successful planter & my Negroes were properly managed they ought to make me £1200 a year & their expenses would not exceed £300 so their would be £900 clear - but then their would be my care & anxiety & risk of my health in going to the plantations -

I took a slight cold in coming up from Charleston which is attended with a sore throat & has returned a little of the pain in my breast - but in a very small degree. I hope it will wear off in a few days, otherwise I am tolerable well, coughing little, eating much & sleeping well - I have not yet begun to use exercise as the court is now sitting here and I am every day busy with one person or
another in trying to collect or secure money—
but I mean to begin tomorrow as I have got
my horse ready.

I drink also water continually & hope
it will have a good effect—

I stay with my friend Mr. Stearns who
married one of the Miss Middletons—They are
very kind to me, for which I am sure you
will esteem them very much—

Make my love to all the family—

Be particular in presenting my very best
respects and regards to the Queen Street family—

My compliments to my acquaintances &
let your mind conceive the most tender ideas
& be assured they are those which mine
holds towards you—

Take care of your health & be happy
is the charge of your affectionate

Beaufort
April 8th 1787

John Bean