4-23-1787

John Kean to Susan Kean, April 23, 1787

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The 17th April in the evening & the 20th in the morning shall be formed into one day in my future computation of time & in this I shall follow the scriptural mode of reckoning, for there the evening & morning was the first day — I will mark my day as the Romans did their fortunate ones with a white shell & why will I do this — because both from Charleston & Savannah. I have received my dear Inians well known character — I got that by the way of Savannah first it is a very short letter, I felt pleased but dissatisfied pleased because I had heard from you, dissatisfied because you had written so little & afflicted because you my love had suffered so much pain — the next morning I received three packets — my pleasure was increased — my dissatisfaction was entirely removed — but yet my affliction remained — my Susan had suffered from cruel, hard hearted pain, I rejoice with you that you have had sufficient fortitude to remove the offending member & I pray heaven that with its removal all your ills may cease & that never more may my Susan know a pain, but such as will give a helping fifty times more pleasing —
If it were possible to envy those we love, I should most surely envy Picketts & Colle — why are they the favourites of heaven, blessed with health enabled to stay with their wives & enjoy real happiness, while I weak & sickly just crawling on the face of the earth am obliged to leave mine a prey to anxiety, apprehensions, anguish. I hear, but it is not for mortals to scrutinize the ways of Providence. I rest myself on the Pillow of resignations & say, Lord thy will be done — but be assured that no one can wish more real happiness to or rejoice more in your sister’s welfare than does your husband & had heaven been pleased to place me in a situation to have acted in them to have demanded my assistance they should not find me making professions only — but we must be contented — let us not look at the bright side of the view always — but some times on the clouded — see how many are worse off than we are & remain satisfied —

Great pain it is said swallow up little ones sure I am great pleasure buries them — but they will return I have their moment — the pleasure I enjoyed from hearing from you & receiving such
...highly pleasing marks of your affectionate attachment—had buried the weaker sorrow on my sister account almost in oblivion—In January they had a slight shock of an earthquake, which frightened her excessively & being far advanced in her pregnancy brought on a premature labour—the child died the next day. Her health is much injured—so much so that she is going to France for her recovery—every thing is a melancholy proof of the weakness of mortals—but it is in vain to refine.

I am happy to hear a spirit of economy has spread its influence over Congress—if they use it properly it may do good. If the Treasury is not less than $300,000 currency a year & a vacancy happens I would chose to be nominated for it, if I should be elected if the climate does not agree with me I can but resign—in this matter you will also consider how you will like the removal to Philadelphia as I do it with a view to your happiness, supposing that you will (which is very natural) be happier satisfied to be with or near your friends than at a distance from them. In every thing of this kind I wish to do what ever is most pleasing to you & if my health will bear the climate confiding it will be most pleasing to me also...
Mr. Chancellor has a claim upon my best wishes & I give them with great sincerity, may they prove beneficial to her is my prayer—she is a worthy woman—Pray always remember me to her in the kindest manner—

Rejoice in the good health of your Father may it long continue & his evening of life glide happily away—if he was my own parent I could not feel a higher degree of veneration & love for him than I do—but as not my Susan’s relation mine, am I not part of her—yes I am, then father is mine—I hope my love when he conversed with you, that you mentioned to him my desire to secure to you what ever he means to give you—if you have not let me entreat that it may be done.

Give my most dutiful respects to your father & mother—my love to all the rest of the family—respects & compliments to friends & acquaintances—

Gen’l P. Clair & Mrs. Judge Livingston stand at the top of the friendly list— I am happy to find my friend Pinchney is so attentive—may you ever receive from the worthy part of mankind every attention that can make life pass easily happily away is the prayer of your affectionate husband—

John Pinckney

Beaufort April 23, 1797.

Casars, mother, family are well, she is just ready to rise in