4-29-1787

John Kean to Susan Kean, April 29, 1787

John Kean

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There are two things in which I take much
delight, but I cannot enjoy them together, and one of them
I almost wish never to enjoy again after the month of
June, my dear Susan will readily conceive that the first
is the pleasure of being with her. The second is that of
hearing from her when obliged to be absent, sweet are
the sensations that are felt by those who truly love
when they receive the sentiments of their counterpart
when their hearts are opened to them, & their soul
pours forth its fondest secret— these were my feelings
when my beloved's letter of the 5th all in one great
mine eye— I lifted the lines for these went my Susan's
hand— I was happy for she seemed at ease— thanks
be to my God I shall soon be on my way towards
her; this is Saturday on Monday week I leave this hell
will be the 17th May the 8th I shall be in Charleston
then for Tenker & New York—

Will any one pretend that sympathy does not
exist! it must be one that never loved, for he would
feel as he love such various pleasures that he could
not otherwise account for, that he must like the
physician be obliged to allow the existence of sympathy.

I rejoice that you felt so much pleasure in
thinking that we were both occupied in the same manner
on your natal day, but are we not so occupied every
day, dear mine [illegible] cannot pass unobserved--but one moment that my mind knows pleasure but my Susan is with me, it is only when sorrow [illegible] spirit [illegible] me that I exclude you for affliction is not for my love.

I paid a visit to one of my places on Monday last and returned on Wednesday, this is a small plantation on St. Helena Island where I had my Orchard set out, I found the whole place in very bad order, but our poor fruit trees have suffered much the hand of death has been busy among them those which I sent from New York put out early in the spring I promised very fairly, but an excessive growth which we have had now for six weeks & which is very destructive to our Indian planters, put an end to many of their plantations, for they had no kind master to administer the comfort of a cool drop to their parched root.

I have agreed with two persons to lease them my Estate on Hilton Head for five hundred fifty pounds our money a year which is about £950 New York currency clear of all expenses & taxes for three years from the 1st. of next--I thought it was better to keep a part in my own hands, so reserved the St. Helena estate--but if the Treasury takes place I have no doubt I can get £150 for it & £60 for my house would make up £350 more of your money, which would in a few years work of a good deal of debt especially if I could now I then throw in the sale of a tract of two or three land--In case of my absence this
plan of leasing I think the most eligible as it is a certainty, whereas during my absence since 1785 my plantations have been an expense to me & monies which ought to have gone towards discharging my debts has been unfit to be appropriated to the maintenance of my plantations—a wide difference between having money to pay or receiving £1200 your money annually.

The declension of trade in this place has affected my estate, as my wheat has lay unoccupied, they ought to bring in £150 your money annually.

But we must rest satisfied & contented.

The Georgians & our Commissioners have been here some days, they at last settled our dispute about boundary; we are to have the land which lies between the Tugaloo and the Peechee branches of the Savannah river with the equal navigable portion of that river & the Georgians are to have all the lands that lay to the southward. I am very glad the matter is settled & that we have been so moderate, a large western territory would have been very detrimental to us—we are now a very snug compact state for having yielded to Congress all our territory to the Westward of the Alleghany mountains we now occupy but that space which lies from the mountains to the Atlantic; a space of about 150 Miles on the sea & of about 300 Miles to the westward; this space would not do for a kingdom but under the law discipline of a republic is sufficiently extensive & promises more fairly to make the people happy than a larger territory.
The weather for these last eight or ten days has been very disagreeable - the wind at last chief part of the time & the atmosphere thick with haze - this has affected me in a small degree occasioned a small expectoration of blood - but by no means equal to what I had it in New York - my cough is reduced to about five minutes in the morning when I rise which is between five & six o'clock. I am competitor & our competition is so equal that it is difficult to say which of us gets up earlier than the other most frequently I go to bed at nine & pray to the ruler of the universe to help me make happy my beloved, then commit myself tobonus who by his minister Morpheus frequently places you with me & makes me happy as I hope he does you also -

I sent you a letter in my last for your father & Otto - Ask you to make my love to them all. and to send the inclosure to Mrs Livingston in Queen street.

Major Habershon takes charge of this & is to send it by Schermer horn from Savannah.

God help you may you ever be happy!
Take care of yourself remember health is precious.

Your affectionate husband

John [Signature]

Beaufort April 29th 1787