11-20-1787

John Kean to Susan Kean, November 20, 1787

John Kean

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Charleston Novemb. 20. 1787

At five this afternoon my dear Susan
I landed after a voyage of twelve days in
good health I lamenting nothing but the absence
of my love

You need not be afraid hereafter of
venturing yourself in Saltus. for all the we
had much calm weather & were obliged to
Anchor on the shore of North carolina for
two days, yet we had a few hours of such
weather as was sufficient to try any vessel
I would most certainly have discovered any
weak part.

I took cold the first day it was very
unwell for two or three days, indeed I have been
more sick this passage than I ever remember
to have been before

How unfortunate not a vessel in the
harbour either for New York or Philadelphia
all sailed a few days before our arrival and
my love must be kept in suspense I made
uneasy for a much longer time than I ever wish her to be—

Several of my friends are in Charleston from the southward— their accounts are not favorable— bad crops at other calamities. But misfortunes is the lot of mankind— whom the Lord loves to be chastiseth. To refine is useless— superior degrees of misfortune or long continued attacks borne with equanimity prove the firmness of one mind over another. I only lament as it puts it out of my power to pay those unto whom I am indebted— my ill genius not satisfied with my having made a short crop has persecuted me further in Prince Williams parish— the day I was celebrating the Anniversary of Don Carlos— my whole crop of rice together with all my winter provision for horses & cattle & Barn, Stable & carriage house was burnt & not any thing saved. I have not any account of how it
happened— but the loss I compute to be about five hundred guineas— a severe blow to one already staggering— without I can get money on loan which I see no prospect of. I must abandon my Georgia lands— but be not dispirited— without a degree of unfeelingness which I have no right to charge upon my creditors— they will not press me under such circumstances—

Your situation my love, had reached this place before your husband & all my friends & acquaintances knew the reason of your not accompanying one— they have enquired kindly after you—

Mr. John Bull is in this place— we lodge in the same house— he has been very ill it is much reduced— but is on the recovery—

Mrs. Ramsay is in the straw— she has got a daughter— she lay in about a week ago—
I think of leaving this for Beaufort on the 25th to see with my own eyes & then to form my judgment what is best to be done.

No accounts of Houston yet—Genl. Pinckney has been arrived near three weeks.

It is unluckily circuit time all the gentlemen of the bar are out of Town.

I can do no business here.

Remember my Susan that the burthen you bear may be the comfort of our old age—take care of yourself for its sake this who loves you every day more & more.

Let me hear from you by every good opportunity & tell me all about Eliza.

My love to all the family.

Adieu

Pray send me all McLeans papers that have the Federalists in them.

Your affectionate husband

John Knox