John Kean to Susan Kean, April 5, 1788

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Brafort April 5th 1788.

After an agreeable passage of about ten hours I arrived here at eight in the evening. Without suffering other inconvenience than that of having my skin burnt during my stay in Savannah, the badness of the weather, the multiplicity of business & the shortness of time prevented me being as much with your amiable nieces as my inclination lead me to be: they were both very well.

My affairs in Georgia are not so much deranged as I imagined they were. The extent of my debts in that country do not exceed £1500 & the amount of my debts are double the amount, but I have suffered very much indeed by their rascally laws to the amount of £1500 at least. There still some
law matters depending—but which cannot
effect me much—especially as I am satisfied
to sacrifice every thing in Georgia—except
the property which is now yours— and which
consists of about 2000 acres of valuable rice
land—I have had it conveyed to my beloved
son, children & in case of more by me then
to who she pleases—Mr. Stephens, your brother
& my friend Barnwell are your trustees on
this occasion—when Indian disturbances will
permit, I must try to make this estate a productive
one for you—it is capable of receiving the
work of one hundred Negroes—which will
produce an income of about £2000 your
money one year with another—the cost of
a sufficient number of hands will be about
twenty thousand pounds your money, which if it please God to spare my life for about ten years I have no doubt I shall procure. Whatever your Father gives you with your consent may be appropriated to this purpose.

This then is the situation of my affairs.
I am possessed of in Georgia about 6000 Acres of land.
Debts to the amount of all £3000
Store in Georgia about £1500.
I owe in Georgia about £3000.
I am possessed of in Georgia about 2000 acres of land—& a wharf lot in Savannah.
I am possessed of in Carolina.
Land in Prince Williams parish 2700 Acres
10 on St. Helena
10 on Hilton Head
House & lot in Beaufort
200 acres
1 vacant 50
90 Slaves—Cattle—Horses—Sheep &c.
Debts due me about £3000.
A tract of land conveyed to John Rutherford which is meant for you, 400 Acres valued at £2000 Sterling—

I owe in Carolina including my sisters debt £4500—

I can sell my land on St. Helena immediately for £700 but I don't think it enough—

If I could get in the debts due me—selling the land on St. Helena & making a good crop I should go pretty nigh paying off all my debt next year, except my English debt which I don't mean to pay until I can sell lands—I suppose I owe them £3000 & without touching my active property I have good acres of land to pay it with—worth at least good Guineas—You will no doubt observe I have allowed nothing for our maintenance—I depend