4-8-1788

John Kean to Susan Kean, April 8, 1788

John Kean

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Beaufort April 8th 1788-

This day has been made one of the most happy of my life by the return of the Pilot boat in which your letters were sent after me to Georgia. I do my love most cordially join you in returning thanks to that almighty power who rules the world for his merciful kindness to me in granting you a safe delivery out of your perils & I further petition him for a continuance of his mercy during all that time which your situation renders dangerous.

To pretend to express my present joy that happy feelings by words is vain if it is possible for the mind to conceive the difference that really exists between the point of greatest
depression and anxiety and that of the most exalted satisfaction; then may they have a faint idea of my sensations — indeed it requires all my prudence to restrain myself — I am ready to cry out to every person I meet. My Susan is well — my dear wife has escaped the impending danger — am not I a happy fellow? — but I restrain myself.

Your dear little letter of the 29th of Feb. is the most valuable you ever wrote in your life, although it was accompanied by three others from you, one from your Father, your brother Phil, your sister & Doct. Bard.

I hope my love that heaven will bless our honest endeavours & that we shall have it in our power to be serviceable to Mr. & Mrs. R and their family — I know that you have a grateful, kind, benevolent heart and I hope
and flatter myself that mine is not void of those divine qualities—indeed every body that is attentive to kind to you confer a much greater obligation upon me than if they were much more so to myself—

Don't let pecuniary matters affect you too much—economical we must be, but mean we will never be—while an acre of land or a black will bring money we will not descend below that sphere in which we have mourned—

Your safety was known in Charleston in ten days after it happened & in Beaufort two days after but they would not tell me until another report 5 or 6 days after confirmed the first least it should not be true and that by raising my spirits in the first instance they might have injured me—I think they
were very cruel — but all is now well —
Begin with our young gentleman in time don’t 
let him get wrong ideas at first or you will 
have the trouble of breaking him of them —
I think my love you had better have him 
inoculated as soon as ever you or your friends 
think it can be done with safety —
My exile draws near a conclusion — May 
approaches fast — Saltus’s ship being out of 
the trade will oblige me either to come in a 
Sloop or by the way of Philadelphia — if 
Schimershorn had sailed a little sooner from 
Savannah his return would have been a 
good opportunity & then I could have taken 
charge of Betsy Bayard as Houston does 
not think of returning —