Robert Barnwell to John Kean, November 20, 1789

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At a short time after your departure from this place I wrote you a letter which I flatter myself you received safely as it met with a ready conveyance by Elliott. The contents of it were so more despicable to me than I could have wished them to have been, but as the request made by them was founded in Justice and supported by every Consideration I please myself with the Idea that it met with no objection on your part, and that the answer to my letter in complying with what I asked will stand your approbation upon the request.

A favorable opportunity now offering to Charleston I have used it to join you as far as I can a state of your affairs in this quarter of the world and what concern I have had with them. Your debt towards me I have paid as far as I was able to it at present and in this business I am sure the late courts will deal here with him and you.

I heard a conversation of this tendency, I informed you that you had directed the whole of your crop over £50 to £60 to be sold and the money arising therefrom to be paid to his house for No. 6, that is...
addition to this you had enabled me to say that all the payments made you by your debtors should be thrown into the same extinguishing fund this year for the present year, that in future you had given me an assurance that whatever I should pay upon the debt due you by me should flow in the same channel, and that I thought considering the great caution which you had made on this occasion that you had reason to expect considerable indulgence. He replied that he had received a letter of a later date than those which came with the one forwarded to you, that in that Mr. C. was displeased and uneasy and that although he was making a loyal protest for the sum due him yet he makes the most serious demands for punctuality on your part. The severity given and the assurances made, seemed to satisfy Mr. E. I believe I was justifiable in giving him room to hope that £130 out of the £150 due would be paid him between this and Midsummer next.

You were much deceived in the quantity of Indigo which you supposed would be made by your different Plantations. Honey has in all six barrels each of which I understand will weigh from 280 to 300 lbs. Sam has two of the same size and one which will weigh I think some about 230. Let us not settle more than half of the above stated barrel, thus far of your Indigo
the rest of your planting concerns was of so intricate and
true that I have not been able to work them entirely
written last Thursday. From supposed by your account
that he gave a right to keep the Negroes until you and
upon examining the contract as I thought it had and
a few of reason that it was best to palliate. I then
for suffered that he should trifled their time in
uppaying the Mortgage which you had borrowed from
him and that they should thrust out the fingers and
which is between you in addition to this he is to loan
five of those lands which worked with him to carry
the Indies to Charleston, so he intends within as his
factor and you direct him to be your, the simplicity
of choosing Indies so as to make a proper division
and inducement on as being most conclusive to you to
trust to direct the whole to be placed in W. lands
and a division to be made of the amount sale. Being
has some notion that the four acts of Batts are finer than
I should by no means allow. He retains the Indies cloth
and has directed the tools of those who worked with
him to be set aside. I should wish to know your new
premises with respect to the latter. I think you will have
about twenty four bushels of Indian seed to spare and
pound or five hundred bushels of Corn from Hill's land
you have made me potatoes at Paris to eat them in
your corn is in use you have not made above 250 bushels
at this place consequently there will be time to see it.
of provision. You may perhaps have a sufficiency of Indigo seed at this place. Sripis began to clear land ten days ago, but has made but small progress. Lai le'li's moments have been upon the roads, and he endures himself in his council. All the time. Some taken charge of the land on Monday next. As your object at Paris was no more than to perform the land well and as I am confident Sam can do this without the aid of any purchase I have therefore kept them at Wolton Head. I shall take care that you sustain no disadvantage from this, and such was the situation of the Wolton Head land. That I could have the expectation of a crop but by purchasing directly at any rate you shall have no cause to complain. Upon examining the Negroes who you directed to be watched, I found them more valuable than I supposed. I therefore went myself to the sale and bid twenty shillings for L68 for L60 and Wolley to L67. I offered Amidon for L60, but no purchase appearing, I have sent him back to Paris. Negro who you also ordered to be sold. Tapping of some to buy him and a character better than his looks being given him. I have kept him in the terms our agreement. I think him worth L66 to date, and will give upon our former condition L65 for him if this is not agreeable. I will send him to Paris. To Same my hogs on you at Wolton Head and I shall soon have good gear enough for each. I have received you cloth, tools, and shall distribute it among as soon as becoming in hand. I have but now sent 25 to Negroes show which the Negro heads.
my inclination was to have finished with my paper, but the assurance of your wish to be again acquainted with what may be called our Politics, and my desire to present my respects by fulfilling my promise to Mr. Bannister, has forced for me from indulging it, notwithstanding my dislike to my strongly pleaded for its qualification, what I call our politics in the election which has lately taken place for members to the State convention. This like the others of late has been of an extraordinary sort, in any thing in which the unreflecting many are concerned can be considered so, instead of my Brother John, Maj. Wm. M. Elliott and such as these their capacity and wisdom have induced them to send as their representatives. I think this trifles. George Hepp José Guernac Ben Reynolds to render this business still more peculiar there was a tie between my Brother and John Cole my name stood on the lists of Representatives, but for the preference of my Brother I would not have served for when the ay and of our neighbours in the Political way is fixed upon the above catalogue, it is almost a disgrace to be noticed in addition to this when you call to mind that will this out I am to perform a Pilgrimage to Columbia you will feel that the Nor'easters have most cause to be pleased, the Public good out of the Question Our State Politics are of no great moment at present. Commodore Gillen at the Head of the Columbia commissioners has
prescribed us of the low country in January meeting at their place I suppose by way of Conscience for the inspection upon which the Lord had of his Publick conduct. A letter of Gen. Sumter which I suppose by this you have heard of perhaps have seen, has made some noise with us as it has been said that the Magistrates in the interior counties have refused to take the Federal oath, and this refusal is attributed to that letter; this is merely a report which I mention as I have heard it slightly, for this as it may the letter is certainly of an inflammatory tendency and is the more dangerous as it is untruthful. As to my plain understanding, the Gen. appears to have overstated his claims with mere acquiescent political motives and in the true spirit of Petrosey has predicted much without the aid of the Constitution's Reason. I think him much to blame for such a letter both in the manner and matter of which have opened my opinion of the Gen. heart and heart.

Do me the favor to say to Mr.发热 that I am apprehensive she had not a bad passage to New York as the winds which prevailed here for some time after her departure were very unfavorable. I imagine if in our days a plurality of Gods were admirably she as well as myself would have to profess to the God of the Wars very frequently or at any rate very earnestly. However in this purpose I have had this advantage on the summer that she has been more than enough to reside.
I would say something according to orders of the family but now are the occurrences of late life and are therefore worthy of mention. My Mother has been very unwell the whole of this extraordinary fall but is now better, the rest of her are all well. My sister George and Sally are yet in Charleston. I do not know how the letter is pleased with her situation as she has not written to me, but I imagine she is as busy as an ant in the busy season of the year. She has lately entered upon that I must wait untill the time the spirit of depression have evaporated. When I shall hear from her, all the rest of her acquaintances here are well and with much her early return.

I will be also much pleased if you will present my compliments to Mr. George Shubett, with the venerable old folks there. I wish every happiness to be theirs and compted with them upon the birth of their son, make a tender of my best respects to Mrs. Bayard and Mrs. Griffin, and remand your particularly to that most worthy of family the Byrds.

If in your way, make my compliments of civility to those whom you may know of my acquaintance. Sir, Labon, in a letter of the hand for me, tol d me I will pay the world when Congress remove to the Botcconach. That you and our family may be well in the season with.

N. B. The family desire their respect and compliments to the heirs.

Your Friend,

Rob. Barnwell