Margaret Livingston to John Kean, November 22, 1789

Margaret Livingston

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Clermont 22 Nov. 1759

You will, my dear sir, believe that after the very alarming letter I received from you last summer, in which I found cause for grief in the bad state of your health and comfort from the state of your soul, I sincerely rejoiced in your return with my cousin and your sweet boy to the bosom of your anxious friends. Long may your life be prolonged, and in the restoration of your health your life be vital in the praise of the blessed donor—health is among the first of temporal blessings and when it is suspended, how many anxious moments does the sufferer and those bound up in blood and friendship feel! Lately I have known this experimentally in my dear Mr. Tillotson family out of 21 only herself and one black man were well—3 women take their bed at once—her infant 3 months old almost dying with the influenza, her husband and 2 of her children very ill; indeed my life hung in suspense a fortnight and but one room for her sick & a kitchen for the servants, as they lived in a small farm house while he was building his dwelling house for the convenience of being near the workmen but they also were obliged to take
to their beds. Those were also to be nursed and the house
left to itself. Every thing stood still—Dr. Lewis brought the
two children not to want to her house James I have heard
after Dr. Lewis went to the island to tell that his life was spared
to that poor mother and to leave her sick husband and
wife to her boy. You may judge of her mind going from
one to the other. But God supplied her wonderfully. Joanna
went to her and declared immediately and as soon as she
was able was carried to Dr. Lewis', where she soon recovered,
Ellen was also brought there and found a sensible
change immediately. The family were now thanking be to God
restored. I expect to be up pretty soon this week to stay the winter
with one as the new house is not fit to live in
and from thence we are again overboard to one after a long
absence. I do not apologize for writing so much of my family
and how long known your feelings to be interested in my
family's happiness for which I am grateful—I am sorry no
reform. Did not go with me but was to politely as to ask her
to see your little boy. I should not have done so—please to
prevent my love to my cousin and give a kiss which will
be more acceptable from her moma then the old woman who
sends it to the younger. May every blessing in time and
eternity be yours as far as infinite wisdom has best for you pray
please accept of a sketch,
Yours etc.
M. Livingston
Mr. M. Livingston
Nov. 22, 1789

The Hon. John Head
New York

Paid by the Chancellor

[Handwritten calculations]
133 3/8
106 6/4
530 4/9
1479 9/7
239 5/7

600