

Title: **John Kean to Susan Kean, May 28, 1793**

Series 2

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I wrote you my dear Susan a few hasty times on Saturday. I am very glad to find Peter is a good boy. With respect to his improving rapidly perhaps it is not at his time of life to be expected. The highest flavored and best keeping fruits are longest in coming to perfection; while those that more rapidly attain their greatest point of perfection the sooner decay and are always insipid¹. I don't know that this law of the vegetable extends to the animal Kingdom. But I am content that Peter should be a child, a lad & a very young man & I hope at last a very good man. Teach him the good qualities of your own heart. Let him be just and benevolent - free from arrogance, self sufficiency & false pride and Altho[ugh] he is not learned - he will be a good, husband, father, master-friend.

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Your brother writes me that they expect a visit from you in New York, they did not know of your being in Elizabeth Town when he wrote the 22nd.

I saw Ternant after I wrote you and from what he said I rather suppose his furniture will be for sale & that Mr. Genet is only to have the house.

I inquired of him whether Mr. Genet had said any thing about Mr. Otto. He said they had not had any conversation on that subject more than that he was very well provided for. His (Mr. Otto's) allowance I find is 12,000 livres which if paid in real money would be about [\$]2,250 dols [dollars] but assignats² being like old continental money, no body can say what the value is; from the last accounts I should not estimate it at more than about 750 dols & that growing daily worse - how even Mr. O - will have the advantage over a great number of his contemporaries from his experience in the country.

¹ Lacking flavor

² French Revolutionary money

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Ternant will be in New York next week; from him you may gather more particulars.

We have had some extremely hott [hot] weather, but, a very material change has taken place since Thursday & has obliged me to return to my thicker clothes. The hott weather had occasioned me to change my cloth under clothes for silk.

Health is the greatest of all possible blessings and nothing should be untried on your part to reestablish yours. It is a duty you owe your son in a greater degree than mothers generally do, because the probabilities of me reestablishing mine are not very strong. I don't mention this to depress your spirits or because I am worse. On the contrary I have not been so free from complaints at so early a period these several years, however if you find change of air and exercise do not agree

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so well with you as resting at home return when you please, you full well know that your absence is a privation of happiness to me & I submit to it only for your greater good & that of our dear boy.

When you do return I pray you bring a good man servant if you can find one.

Give my love to all the family & kiss Peter many times for me.

God bless you & send you health
prays your affectionate husband.
J.K.

Last Evening we paid the last duty to the remains of Mrs. Pinckney.

Philadelphia, May 28th: 1793