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John Kean to Susan Kean, April 29- May 1, 1788

John Kean

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Braunfort Apr: 29th 1788.

I forgot to mention in my letter by Wilcox that I had directed Chisolm to remit my love two hundred dollars - this makes 700 dollars. I think that I have remitted in all & added to 200 dollars which Wilcox is to pay me in New York will make up 900 dollars - 200 of which I mean to replace your Horses - 500 for our family expences - any balance that may remain added to our certificate old chariot, what we may receive from J. R. & what I can rake together before I come to purchase the carriage I mentioned - I hope we shall be equal to all this -

I have now sold off the greatest part of my useless cattle, horses & sheep which has brought me bonds payable in 142 years about £400 St. which will serve as a sett off against so much debt - I have kept

about 50 head horned cattle, 20 head horses, 20 head sheep & about 40 head hogs these added to poultry I hope will supply our table sufficiently with meats - the rivers abound with fish & oysters - the earth is abundantly prolific so that with care & industry we shall not want -

I have retained your old scrub carriage horses in case of accident - they now drag the plow but they are strong & able -

I will not sell my lands until the new constitution is determined upon & I am present to negotiate the bargains - the eye of the master makes work go on smoothly & properly - my presence for two years would change matters much to my advantage.

a few years peace & good government will raise the value of land exceedingly in this part of the country - people here have a mortal antipathy to going into the back country & there are a vast

number of children growing up all of whom will have land if they can possibly get it & the quantity for sale is not very large within 20 Miles round - perhaps 10,000 acres - 3000 of which I have - all this convinces me that it will rise in price -

May 1st

St. Tammany counts another anniversary and the jocund husbandmen rejoice in the genial spring - the flood gates of heaven are yet shut against us, no shower to glad the earth who pants beneath the scorching ray of days great luminary - but the omnipotent knows for what wise purpose the moistening drop is withheld -

One week more & I begin to progress towards my love to see her & her son is

all that is wanting to my happiness -

I still continue with a small
hacking cough which increases with the
least inattention to myself - but all
bleeding is stopped -

Not a letter yet since the
27th February - two months & not hear a
word from my Susan is very hard -

I want to know your sons name
to hear how he does - whether he grows
& all the little nothings that please a
father - kiss him & bless him -

My love to the family

Adieu

Heaven guard my Susan and
her son - Prays your affectionate

May 3: 1788 -

John Kerr