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John Kean to Susan Kean, April 23-26 , 1788

John Kean

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Braufort Apr. 23. 88.

We have had the strangest weather for these two days ever known in this country - the winds have been exceedingly high & we have had our grounds whitened over with the hoar frost - this bodes no good to us Indigo planters - I have 60 acres Indigo planted & come up very prettily they tell me & about 35 acres of Corn but I prognosticate its ruin from the wind & frost -

I shall go to Hilton Head tomorrow to see the extent of the mischief -

26th

I am just returned from Hilton Head misfortune is not yet tired of persecuting us, what the frost spared the wind has uprooted or buried - & from a fair prospect I have now the most ragged fields in the neighbourhood and to

add to our ill luck we cannot get rain to plumb
the remainder of our crop - April which is
showery to a proverb has entirely changed its
nature - the thirsty earth has not had but
one cooling shower for these thirty days and
our prospects do not speak rain -

I have a ~~cherry~~ Peach orchard with one
or two Nectarine trees at Hilton Head - this is
the first year of their bearing cleverly, the last
year being the first of their blossoming - they
are now so loaded with fruit that I much
fear they will break down - ~~and~~ this dry
weather will ruin the fruit - but this we need
not refine at, for my love will not be here
to eat them ~~for~~ this year -

The manufacture of children on this island is the only thing that goes on very successfully not less than 10 or 12 young gentlemen & ladies have been introduced into society since I have been here -

M^{rs} Cuttberh a son - M^{rs} Gen^l Barnwell a daughter

M^{rs} Stuart a son & M^{rs} W^m Elliott a son - this latter lady is in her seventeenth year - all these

are the children, wives of the children - the grand children or wives of the grand children of the lady at whose house I stay & another of her grand daughters expects to lay in every day -

This good old Lady is sixty five years of age has had 22 Children of which there are now remaining 4 Sons & 3 daughters - she has twenty one grand children & four great grand children so that when the whole of her immediate descendants with their wives & husbands are assembled she counts about forty souls in her family - but

this is not the only instance of longevity we have
we can reckon five other women in this small
place who are above 60 years of age all of whom
are natives - as to gentlemen we cannot boast so
much we have a few exotics who are past their
grand climacteric - but of natives few are the
number that have counted more than half a
century -

I am waiting with anxious expectation to
hear from my Susan - not one word of her health &
her young gentlemen's welfare since he was a day
old -

My love to the family

Adieu

Take care of yourself
for the sake of your affectionate husband -

John Kean