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John Kean to Susan Kean, March 25-27, 1788

John Kean

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March 25th 88.

The packet is arrived from Charleston my fond hope is disappointed - no letters - the Sloop Maria Captⁿ Elliott arrived in a five days passage on the 13th & I have not a word, what am I to think - fear & apprehension succeed to joy & gladness - anxious suspense has again seized my soul - but yet hope tells me believe the voice of fame - your Susan is well & has a son - my heart suggests a thousand excuses for this seeming inattention and my head will not examine them too nicely least it may not be satisfied with the result -

Patience is my only resource - time will cure the evil & I hope a short portion of it -

I wrote my love I had bought a tract
of land in John Rutherfords name for her &
perhaps it may make her uneasy on account
of my increasing my debt - but this purchase
has not increased my debt much only £270 & that
payable in 1, 2 & 3 years - the person ^{to} whom ^I bought
it owed me money & he took a tract of my land
in payment -

I am now in treaty for another tract of
land - if I sell it it will make me tolerably easy
as to my debts in Carolina - my sisters estate
will then be the only one pressing upon me and as
I have more money due me than I owe her - what
I shall receive with my Crops if it please God to
give me good seasons will get me clear of her in a
year or two & then I shall have nothing to attend
to but my English debt & by that time I hope land

will be in such demand as to enable me to sell
a tract or two of about 5000 acres & then we shall
be free - in the mean time we must be as
frugal as we have hitherto been & I am sure
such are my Susans just ideas of independance
that she will join me in all oeconomical plans
to effect it -

I think upon ~~the~~ whole altho the winter
has been so severe I am better than when I left
you - which is doing wonderfully well - I had
a return of spitting of blood about a fortnight ago
which was occasioned by my being caught in a
sharp North west wind in coming from Hilton Head
but it has now ceased & the weather is now growing
milder every day, which makes me hope I shall
not grow worse -

You did not send me Mr Parkers billet -
how does he bear his being left out of the next
delegation to Congress -

27th

I am just on the wing for Georgia where I shall be I imagine until the 5th April - so if you do not hear from me dont be uncrasy as there may be no opportunities -

I feel your Fathers kindness very much & beg you to present my kindest & best wishes to the old gentleman your Mamma - Mr & Mrs R the children & ca -

Give Eliza Julia as many kisses as you give your own son - mind dont you spoil him -

Adieu my love take care of yourself for your affectionate husband

John Keen