

Kean University

Kean Digital Learning Commons

Liberty Hall Collection 1780s

Liberty Hall Collection

January 2021

Eliza Livingston to Susan Livingston

Elizabeth Livingston

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.kean.edu/lhc_1780s

Recommended Citation

Livingston, Elizabeth. *Eliza Livingston to Susan Livingston*. Manuscript. From Special Collections Research Library and Archives, Kean University, *Liberty Hall Collection 1780s*.
https://digitalcommons.kean.edu/lhc_1780s/5

This Manuscript is brought to you for free and open access by the Liberty Hall Collection at Kean Digital Learning Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Liberty Hall Collection 1780s by an authorized administrator of Kean Digital Learning Commons. For more information, please contact learningcommons@kean.edu.

I can scarcely thank you sufficiently my dear Susan for writing me so frequently & in so particular a manner. Your whole budget came together by Mr. Van Schaack from Kinderhook; but from me you can't expect similar accounts of gaiety &c. tho' we are quite as lively here as we could possibly wish. Indeed I am amazed to find how much there is here to take up the attention. I find continual occupation, & so much as to interfere with the reading I allotted myself, & yet tho' I am not idle, I get very little ^{surely} work done, however as most of the better part of the society will leave Lebanon next week, we shall probably have less interruption, but this I do not view in a pleasurable light; as the Walton family are particularly kind neighbours I did not expect to have written again until their departure, which is fixed for next Tuesday, but Mr. Brebner came ^{up} to me just now, to inform me he had set out tomorrow & will be in New York on Tuesday at farthest, if he pays my letter the promised attention, it will certainly reach Long before the arrival of the Walton's, as they go first to Albany, & their leaving that, depends on casual circumstances. From your account I expect to find a pleasing acquaintance in Miss Van Breckel. I am flattered by his Excellency's polite attention to you, but I feel for Margaretta's mortification, for however she was indifferent on the occasion. You have really a very gay time of it, & just the kind of pleasure to my taste; I wish it would have done as well for my banishment to have been in Winter. Balls Assemblies & card parties would not have been objects of my regret, but country parties are what I enjoy with elegant society. Has Baron Stenben given the ladies another entertainment? I fear it will be too cold by the time I reach New York for any excursions; as I think our departure rather uncertain notwithstanding Aunt has assured me she will set off the last day of August, even if that is the case, according to their method of traveling we will not reach the Manor under three days, & we must spend some day at ~~the~~ house before we think of leaving them, & then we shall have no certainty of a conveyance, as the vessels do not sail from thence constantly, as from Albany Hudson &c. — John L. enclosed your letters in a polite one addressed from

him to me, regretting that business would prevent him the promised pleasure
of visiting me here. I am told that the News-paper has announced the
nuptials of Keed & Kitty. Your intelligence does not come very strict, but I
hope it may be true: & that the Eastern tour was rather a finesse to divert the
curious from searching into the time fixed for the marriage. I should indeed
be sincerely sorry for the proevocation. In Eliza M^e Evers you have an
inviolate companion, do not fail to say something tender to her, in my name.
I am exceedingly obliged to all those who make friendly enquiries about me
pray make the most civil returns. M^r Gardoguis's remembrance particular-
ly flatters me & if you think proper you may express my gratitude. I shall
write to M^r Wall & my dear M^{rs} Bourdieu, by either this or the next convey-
ance. Keen has not acknowledged the receipt of my letter, & no wonder, it
was too stupid to deserve attention. But this sort of correspondence is very
awkward & I doubt much whether I shall succeed better writing to Wall,
but it is my misfortune. The latter has solicited the description of ^{my} ~~his~~
Nubensity, if it ^{can} give him the least satisfaction, pray let him have it,
on this consideration he might positively make, ^{through} ^{he} that will point out the
faults (which I am conscious were many) & allow you to make the cor-
rections, as our hands are so similar the difference of writing will not be
observed & I may at least get credit by his amendments. If Chancy is
at Albany, I shall be extremely sorry not to see her, but I know of no way
in my power. It's surprizing that neither Peggy M. nor the Wayards should
have written when you did, give my love to them & tell them I shall repro-
ach them for inattention. I told you in my last not to risk another letter, but if
this reaches you ^{on} Wednesday or Thursday, you may write by the Forday
stage, as the next Tuesday or Wednesday we shall probably sleep at M^r
Silvesters. He & his wife came up here yesterday to dinner, & left us after
breakfast this morning, & have positively insisted on our coming by ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{stage}
of Kinderhook, so that we shall expect to meet letters there. You need not
regret the loss of that I left with Lydia Vosborough, tho it was very long, there

was nothing in it. Miss Walton has improved greatly within this week
her chin is now quite clear. Indeed there is no appearance of any humor
left. Mine on the contrary is now terribly sore. She says hers at first healed
& became perfectly smooth, (as mine was last week,) but afterwards the water
threw the humor out in a greater degree than ever, & this was a work of time
to heal. I do not expect to remain here long enough for that, as my impatience
is too great to allow me to prolong my stay for this cause. My head is now free
from pain except I catch cold which immediately effects it as usual, this must
lead me to be careful as its effects will (in spite of endeavors at concealment)
always evince that the head is my weak part. It is singularly unfortunate
that so many of my acquaintance who live far distant should be at New York in my
absence. If D. Wetherspoon returns to Carolina, it will be long I suppose before
I have another opportunity of seeing him. And R. I suppose I have lost for-
ever, either by absence or the power of Miss Susan's alluring eyes. You are sensi-
ble how such a loss must effect me. You know I wished his services might have been
tendered to Miss P. N. instead of her sister, indeed if an opportunity had offered
I should have been tempted to have toyed the influence of power, by
were his addresses had better be offered, but for what I reason from those who
are better acquainted with the characters of both ladies, the one you suspect to be the
object of his present attentions is best calculated for the important task of step-mo-
ther than the other. Not that she is so sensible, or notable, but that the eldest pos-
sesses these ^{qualities} & manners that recommend her infinitely more, it is tinged with a
carefulness that more than borders on parsimony, which the indifference of the others
temper preserves her from. And that close attention to interest might in time have disagree-
able consequences to Fanny's child, so I now wish Susan success. ^{the} happiness I have so
much at heart is to contribute every thing except my offices in the line of all this I'm impos-
sible. I suppose you see Gen. & Mrs. W. pretty often, don't fail to present them my compliments.
Mrs. Morris, the Ramsays, Sears's, Smith's, Rutherford's, Lucis, & all my cousins must be
always remembered, likewise compliments to the fair Breckels, Marbri's, Keendon, & the con-
gress. Who can be more particular? but if I am still deficient your recollection must ex-
punge my forgetfulness. Aunt & Kitty acknowledge y^r kindness in mentioning their family, the
the only intelligible they get. Adieu my dear, believe me you have the constant affection
of your
Eliza

August 19th

Dear dear Eliza L.

Love yours

Miss M. M. M.

Miss M. M. M.

Miss M. M. M.