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Peter Kean to Susan Ursin Niemcewicz, March 5, 1809

Peter Philip James Kean

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Charleston March 5th 1809

My Dear Mother

I was obliged to hasten my last letter
lest it should be too late for the post. I was about to
add in ~~addition~~ to what I said concerning the wharf lot
that if a long lease could not be effected at present that
improvements might in my opinion be put on it
at some future period ~~be put on it~~ and the payments
made in good bonds if this however when I see you.
I met Judge Grimké in the street immediately
after I ~~sent~~ ^{wrote} you he accompanied me to the office
of the Sante Canal where after examining the accounts
we found that there was nothing due ~~on~~ our shares
the Canal is now finished and can not possibly cost
us any thing but the loss of the income on the
money we have advanced and as the trade through
that channel was very extensive previous to the Embargo
it is thought by many gentlemen here that it
must be productive in a few years. There remains
about \$50. due on the Catawba shares this property
must also be eventually worth something from the
valuable lands which have been granted by the State
to the Company so that there will be no suspicion
for our selling out at present as we will do it at
a great sacrifice when there is every probability of
receiving something in future.

Judge G. has over looked the papers
I have respecting the affair with Col. L.S. he is to give
me

me his advice tomorrow morning. The question of the extent
of the release must be reserved till I obtain from you a copy
of Judge G's answer to my father's letter of the 9 May 1792.
I will thank you at the same time to send me a copy of
such a part of my father's letter to Judge Grimké which
states what property my father received from Mr Groves
estate you will find the letter in your hand writing in
letter book No 1 or two, the part I allude to begins ~~at the~~
about the middle of the letter and states that he has either
paid in cash or by services for every particle of property
he received from Groves' estate.

The steps you have taken with
regard to the investment of money mark that prudence
which has ever guided your steps may your son now he
is to act for himself remember his kind parents good
example. The legal security of money in the state of New
York it is true is much greater than it is in Jersey
still I think that situated as you are there can be
no better way of securing money than that which you
have pursued in Jersey. Still as I am to be a New Yorker
it will be as well that we should have an interest
in that state.

How I wish you were here to enjoy the
mild air which floats around me while you are hovering
over your fire I am writing with the windows thrown up
inhaling the balmy fragrance of the blossoms. were I a
man of fortune I would certainly not dispose of the
property I have in Beaufort and its environs but
settle the plantations and make that place my
winter residence I am sure would we do this your health
would be much mended. I had heard much as we all do
in the ~~southern~~ northern states of Carolina still I cannot
confess that I have seen nothing worth of Baltimore
like the stile and elegance of Philadelphia and New
York & in my opinion a northern man need only

spent a winter in Charleston to make him long
for the pleasures of his own country. I have received
much hospitality here but unfortunately for
me Gen Pinckney is not in town so that I have
not had an opportunity of conversing with that
great and worthy man.

I spent the last evening at
Major Ludwigs - when I reflect on the perfect happiness
the Major appears to enjoy with his large and beautiful
family I long more and more to be joined to my Sally
whose remembrance no southern Belle has yet been
able to banish for a moment from my breast.

The schoolmistris are now at Fort Mifflin where
I intend visiting them on Tuesday. I have seen no
lady here whose manners and appearance are so
resembling as Miss Ann's. Altho I have seen many
more beautiful women. she is the general
of admiration. I shall visit the same school
previous to my return to Beaufort it is also
my intention to spend a day at Cumbe with
the Heywards on my way ~~up~~ down.

My best wishes are with you and my
mother's friends ever gratefully your dutiful
and obedient son

Peter Mean

P.S. If you can do it with ease I will thank you ^{to} obtain
some few letters of introduction for Norfolk Virginia
where I shall probably spend a few days on my return
enclose them to that City to be left in the Post office
till called for.

Charleston March 24th 09.
P. O. Receipts 6. Monday.
Post mark 6th which is but 10 days
coming near 1000 miles

CHARLESTON
MAR 24
6

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X Mrs Ringewitz
Elizabeth Low
New Jersey

Worcester

Wm