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Susan Ursin Niemcewicz to Julian Ursin Niemcewicz, December 26, 1803

Susan Ursin Niemcewicz

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Elizath Town Dec^r 26th 1803.

My dearest love,

I ~~scarcely~~ thought it possible I could have been writing my dear Husband this day, you are always so punctual that ten thousand fears allarm me for your safety, if I was but assured my best friend was safe, my mind would be at ease in a great measure, the last letter I received from you, your health was in a delicate state, pray that Heaven you may be restored to that greatest of Blessings, and that I may enjoy your society ~~in~~ a few days, so be assured you have ^{not} ventured on your Voyage at so late a Season, when we may be in constant expectation of Tempestous weather. I have a thousand questions to ask, & as many things to relate to you my friend, your last letter says, that the answers to your first letters have not yet reached you, I told you how much I participated in all your enjoyments and that I was perfectly satisfied with the arrangements with regard to pecuniary affairs, you know my love that if you can receive 8^{or} £st remitted quarterly that it will be a convenient and advantageous thing to a person out of business, but in this Country great Fortunes are soon acquired by people who understand some certain things, but this is a kind of knowledge which my love is incapable of acquiring & I think that any speculation ~~on~~ which you venture to undertake will only cause you trouble.

we now want some comforts I think our Domestic's are much improved, but I am obliged to be very vigilant with Tom, or before this time his Moral principles & conduct would have been totally ruined we have a vast number of Blacks in this Town whose principles are absolutely corrupt, Tom is very much inclined to be with them, his natural Disposition is perfectly good, but he believes he is well acquainted with every thing, & I have my doubts on this subject & endeavor to persuade him to comply with my wishes, & to inspire him with an affection to you, & tell him I am sure you will reward his fidelity by a waistcoat or hat. he has a Passion for finery, & ^{as} he is a coward he can excuse my timidity & sleeps every night near my Door that he may guard me from harm, I find the advantage of this, for I can not allow him to be with those negroes who spend the night in Carousing - your little Philip I believe is well calculated to serve well, if he does not get spoiled, his mother certainly is improved in her temper, & I am confident if she had a Mistress or Master who could be attentive to minutia & that she stood in awe of, she would be an excellent Servant, tho' she gives me my dinners very late, I expect everything will be well, when you are at home, but I am too ignorant to order French dishes. - My Friends are extremely attentive to me Col. Williams's family will be a resource for you my love they are persons who feel all the tender affections in the highest degree and are very much inclined to love you they do all in

in their power to make any time pass pleasantly, I know you had
a great desire that Peter should be a good Mathematician, Col Will^m
who was at the Head of our Military Academy has the goodness to take
Peter as his pupil in that Branch of Science. Our good friend Mr Mason
teaches French at the Academy in Town, & Peter avails himself of this
advantage to improve himself he seems very desirous of going through
College. before he attains his 21st year he ought to have been through a
Lawyers office, which takes 4 years before they can plead at the Barr.
Mariah Michells is not yet going to be married that I know of
tho I think her a very fine Woman in many respects & if she will
study a little more she will be very clever. I believe that she with
her Father & Mother will go to Phi.^a the Bellasis speak of being of
the same party. Mr B. looks remarkably well I think there is some
probability of another addition to her little ones, your Sally is
every day gaining something she is a dear babe, I wish I could
give you some pleasant account of our poor brother, he continues
very ill with the Gout; he has made another Dividend of our Fathers Estate
which my friend Mr Le Moy advises me to invest in Op. & C. Stock, but without
you I fear I have done too much in the business way, & had determined to let my
money remain idle till your arrival, but our friend Mr Chan endeavors to
persuade me if you went to Hungary that you could not be in time at
Hamburg before the Elbe was frozen & endeavor to persuade myself that
you will be Mr Livingstons companion, for I think he will not run the
risk of being taken by any power, & you will be sure of good society.
but the longer you remain the more uncertain I shall feel myself how
I ought to manage with our little Farm & other concerns, I never can

do anything respecting building or improvements without you, & I do
 join in wishing we had more accommodations for our friends by our comfort
 if this letter should reach you in Warsaw you can let the Princeps Royal of France
 know that he has a Botanic Garden in Jersey: The King became a Citizen of Jersey
 to enable him to hold this property, & I think that none but the Princeps can have
 any claim or title to it, you can obtain permission to gratify your passion
 for Botany & get some curious shrubs which were planted there, & have increased
 amazingly I am told, It is a pity this thing should be neglected the motive
 for which it was instituted is perfectly good, and if Her Royal Highness should wish
 to dispose of it I think her title would be found good, I always shall feel a great desire
 that justice should be done to every body. Bellasis has been to Phi^a & confesses he never
 saw so fine a Collection of plants as Mr Hamiltons & that the Green Houses are imperfect
 order, you are to be a partaker with him in every thing which is curious, The topic
 of consideration now is the marriage of George Bonaparte, He has engaged a beautiful girl in
 Baltimore after having the engagement broken off by her Father, who objected to the connexion
 till his daughter should find herself a divorced Woman in France. Mr Gahn is gone.
 Good Night Jan^{ry} 10th 1804

Julian Cousin, Nimeewicz.

D. 25

in those
 Philib.

Jan^{ry} 11th 1803. Many, many happy years attend you & all those you love, if you are with any
 body, who feel an interest for me present me kindly to them; if you have received half of the
 letters which have been sent you the last year, you must be well acquainted with every
 thing that has befallen us, Mr Chan has been here for the last 10 days I hope he will be
 married before long, for he really is a very deserving lover & will make an excellent husband
 Peter desires a thousand kind things may be said to you, for he feels every mark of respect
 & duty, love from all your friends in this Town, who are all well. Heaven protect you
 where ever you may be prays your affectionate, afflicted Wife J. U. N. -
 Polly Browns best respects she loves you