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### John Kean to Susan Kean, March 13-16, 1788

John Kean

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Mar: 13<sup>th</sup>. 88 -

Our days of sport are over - the contest was very unequal - a gentleman of the Italian kind beating all the rest with much ease which considering there were ladies in the case was not so genteel -

I gained nor lost not any thing, but the skin off my nose, which M<sup>r</sup>: Sol robbed me of - I might have exposed this feature a long time in your climate in the month of March before such a theft would have been committed - the evening terminated with dancing at which there were nine couple; which considering the smallness of our town and that we were deprived of six ladies by the effects of Matrimony was very well - I did not dance - staid until ten & went home to think how much more I should have enjoyed myself had my Susan been there - four ladies have had little ones in this place since I have been here - the mothers have all done well & but one of the little ones otherwise & that was born dead - I say to myself

if all these do well shall not my Susan also; and  
hope answers me yes she shall - Religion says put  
your trust in God - Philosophy says be resigned - but  
Love & friendship still keep me anxious -

16<sup>th</sup>

By what minute, what nice & imperceptible means  
are our finest feelings called forth - I was looking over  
the letters of my love & among them was our dear  
friend Otto's on his marriage - the joy that filled  
his soul on this event served but to heighten my sorrow  
when I reflected that the cause of it was now no  
more - unhappy Otto, 'cried I,' can there be a state  
in which a man is more ~~centrally~~ <sup>miserable</sup> than  
thine - I never thought I could have felt so much  
for the misfortune of another as I did at this moment  
but perhaps self was at the bottom - may it not  
be, that the fear of a similar evil - heightened my

sorrow - but I flatter myself it cannot will not  
happen to me - I draw consolation from every  
source - even the total silence from New York  
which has prevailed is a comfort to me - it is  
now more than a month since my love must  
have suffered the punishment entailed upon her  
for the transgression of our first parents - in much  
less time than this I heard of our dear Elizas fate -  
misery flies quick by ways unknown, inexplicable,  
and therefore I conclude all is well - the Vulgar  
have a proverb, "that no news is good news" I  
have adopted their opinion -

M<sup>rs</sup> Gough who I hope will be one of  
your friends if you come to this place is so  
kind as to trouble herself with our garden and  
getting some fruit trees for us - orange trees -  
Shaddocks - Citrons &c and some flowers also -

The rats have been very much my enemies since I left this country in 1785 - they got into a trunk of my papers & have destroyed me a considerable number of very valuable ones & about 10,000 doll. in old Continental money I have been these several days sifting & picking out what was left - and among them I found my dear Susans first letter she ever wrote me - It gave me great pleasure - greater I am sure than when I first received it -

Since I have been here I have had my slaves increased by the birth of two boys - shall my negroes do well & am I to lose my Susan my soul says it cannot be so -

Kiss our little one & be assured I shall love it for the mothers sake - my love to all the family -

Adieu

God bless you my dear wife  
prays continually your affectionate husband

John Kean

Mar: 18<sup>th</sup> 88 -