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John F. Grimke to Susan Niemcewicz, October 23, 1797

John Faucherand Grimke

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Charleston. Oct^r. 23. 1797.

Madam

Your favor of the 8th Feb^y. last was received many months after its date, or it would have been replied to sooner; & your last favor of the 26th Aug^r. came to hand but a few days ago — I shall therefore take the liberty of replying to them both by this opportunity. — The picture you give me of my little friend Peter interests me much, & I hope that his heart will be so formed under your attention & maternal advice as to be always free from the malevolent vices: we cannot expect them to be totally eradicated as we are composed of such imperfect materials: if he will approach the character of his Father it will be perhaps as much as we have any right to expect, for he surpasses many in the good & benevolent Qualities. — As to his not

being fond of his school exercises, it is a very general complaint of Masters against their Scholars: it is sometimes used as an apology by them for not having improved the Boys under their tuition. however this may be got over by & by, for sometimes a child shall not appear to be fond of one sort of exercises, & yet when attaining a more manly age may relish his education extremely, having, as it were, his eyes opened by new & more agreeable prospects. I would not therefore be uneasy at his present disinclination to learn, tho' it should be much discountenanced, & I hope to hear that he will have the pride of his Father, who took much pains with himself, as his education had been a good deal neglected in his early youth - and you know full well what a progress he made -

I have not seen or heard from Mr. Barnwell since last December when I met him at Columbia - he acknowledged to me that he had

rec^d a letter from the Secretary of the Santee
Company respecting the demands they had against
your Shares; & he gave me assurances that as
soon as he heard from you, ultimately determi-
ning him in what Character he was to act,
that he would attend to the notice of the Company.
I have mentioned to some of the Members of
that Company the situation of Mr. Dean's Affairs
& that there is no Executor or Administrator
in this State who can be deemed a lawful re-
presentative of him or his family, & that I was
of opinion that no legal notice having been
given to his representatives the shares ought
not to be forfeited. The Gent.^l with whom I con-
ferred were of the same opinion with me, so
that altho' they now stand forfeited, I am in
hopes that whenever Mr. Barnwell can make
it convenient to pay the amount, that the Di-
rectors viewing it in the same light as I do will

erase my friend's name from the list of delin-
quents, & suffer you to become a participator
again of the Charter. We are in hopes it will be
finished this next Spring, which will be a
great ease to the Stockholders, as even supposing
we make no more than the interest of our mo-
ney, which we shall have laid out in compleat-
ing this work, for 5 or 6 years to come, yet we
shall no longer have these six months requisiti-
ons to provide for & which has born upon the
Subscribers with so dead a weight. nothing
shall be wanting on my part to give you the
earliest information as to the success & completion
of the plan, & also of the restoration of your rights
in the Company.

I thought, that you had been
aware of the Chancery suit which Mr Shubrick
had instituted against Mr Hear in his life time:
tho' I did not know that he intended to pursue

it, until I had the information from your last letter. I remember some years ago in conversation with Major Shubrick upon the subject of this suit that he assured me he should be glad to lose it, as he would then be able to discount this against the claim which his Uncle Richard Shubrick had instituted against him. If Mr Shubrick however is serious in this claim, he must recommence his suit, as it is more than 3 years since his bill was filed, & therefore by our Law is out of court. - I will however make the necessary inquiries & inform you on that head what, & if any thing, may be apprehended therefrom. - I do not think however that you need make yourself uneasy on this subject; at all events don't continue to anticipate evils, which may never happen, & which it

will be my serious & earnest endeavour to
avert from you & your dear little boy —
There is no trouble, I can assure you, Madam,
that the interest which I take in your affairs
concerns me, but will be amply repaid
in the consideration of my having done my
duty & an act of friendship to the dear partner
of my beloved deceased Friend —

M^{rs} Gumbel requests me to present
you her affectionate respects; & joins me most
sincerely in wishing you & your little charge
much health & happiness. — I am, Madam,

your obedient humble
servant & cordial friend

J. Gumbel