Appendix C: John Adams to Abigail Adams Letter 2, July 3, 1777

The following images were scanned from a letter written by John Adams to his wife, Abigail Adams, on July 3, 1776.
Philadelphia, July 3, 1776

Had a Declaration of Independence been made seven months ago, it would have been attended with many great and glorious effects, as we might before this hour have formed alliances with foreign states. We should have met with Quebec and been in possession of Canada. An event you would perhaps wonder how such a Declaration would have influenced our affairs in Canada, but if I could write with freedom I could easily convince you that it would and explain to you the manner how.

Here many gentlemen in high stations and of great influence have been deeply by the ministerial Bubble of Canada ministered to trade, and in some cases exaggerated by this effect, which they firmly believe they have been wise and prudent in preventing Montreal for the reduction of Canada in the Colonies.

The minds of the people too much to bear them to the hands of the people to much to bear them to the hands of the people to much to bear them to the hands of the people to much to bear them to the hands of the people to much to bear them to the hands of the people to much to bear them to the hands of the people.
All theseCauses whatever in Conjuction would not have disappointed us, if it had not been for a Mistake which could not be foreseen, and perhaps could not have been prevented, to viz, the Appearances of the Small Pox among our Troops, as an Inoculable Affliction, complainat our Situation. It is a Providence of Providence upon us, which we ought to try to thank.

But on the other Hand, the Saley of this Declaration to this Time, has many great Advantages attending it. The Hopes of American Recovery, which were partly entebled by Multitudes of Want and well meaning the weak and mistaken People, have been gradually and at last totally extinquished; in Time has been given for the whole People, mutually to consider the great Question of Independence and to frame their Judgment, oblige their Hearts, and allow their Hopes by disposing it in News-Papers and Pamphlets, by debating it, in open this General Congress, Committee of Safety, and before in Town and County Meetings, as well as in private Familiar aments, so that the whole People in every Colony of this 13\(\text{th}\) were now adjutted it, as their own Act. This will cement the Union, and avoid that Rivalry and parricide Contentions which might have been occasioned by such a Declaration.

Six Months ago,

But the Day is past. The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Spoke in the History of America.
I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by future generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Dedication by solemn Acts of Devotion and God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade with Fanfare, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time Forward forevermore.

You will think me transported with Enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the Blood and Suffering that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration and support and defend these States — yet through all the gloom I can see the Rays of Morning Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than with all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transactions, even at this We should see it, which I trust in God will not.

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