Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, 3 July 1776 (page 1)

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First page of two-page letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, July 3, 1776. The page reads:

Philadelphia, July 3. 1776

Your Favour of June 17 dated at Plymouth, was handed me, by Yesterdays Post. I was much pleased to find that you had taken a Journey to Plymouth, to see your Friends in the long Absence of one whom you may wish to see. The Excursion will be an Amusement, and will serve your Health. How happy would it have made me to have taken this Journey with you?

I was informed, a day or two before the Receipt of your Letter, that you was gone to Plymouth, by Mrs. Polly Palmer, who was obliging enough in your Absence, to inform me, of the Particulars of the Expedition to the lower Harbour against the Men of War. Her Narration is executed, with a Precision and Perspicuity, which would have become the Pen of an accomplished Historian.

I am very glad you had so good an opportunity of seeing one of our little American Men of War. Many Ideas, new to you, must have presented themselves in such a Scene; and you will in future, better understand the Relations of Sea Engagements.

I rejoice extreamly at Dr. Bulfinches Petition to open an Hospital. But I hope, the Business will be done upon a larger Scale. I hope, that one Hospital will be licensed in every County, if not in every Town. I am happy to find you resolved, to be with the Children, in the first Class. Mr. Whitney and Mrs. Katy Quincy are cleverly through Innoculation, in this City.

I have one favour to ask, and that is, that in your future Letters, you would acknowledge the Receipt of all those you may receive from me, and mention their Dates. By this Means I shall know if any of mine miscarry.

The Information you give me of our Friends refusing his Appointment, has given me much Pain, Grief and Anxiety. I believe I shall be obliged to follow his Example. I have not Fortune enough to support my Family, and what is of more Importance, to support the Dignity of that exalted Station.

This letter continues on a second page., and a subsequent letter is also available.

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Philadelphia July 3, 1776 1272 IJA to AA] your havour of home 17. dotal at Ply menth, was handed me, by gester days Orfe. I was much pleased to find that you had taken a Tourney to Thy month to fee your Friends in the long abbres of one whom you may with the - The Ecurpin will be an accurement, and will Serve your teath. How hoppy would it have made me to have taken this Town my with you, ? I was informed, a day or two before the Receipt of your Letter, that you was gove to Olymouth, by And Polly Toliner, who was obliging enough in your Alpene, to in from me, of the Particular of the texulitien to the loneer Harbour against the Men of War. - Her Narration is executely with a Precision and Per Spinit, which would have become the Ten of an accomplished thetimes I am very glad you had to good an opportunity of Leing, one of our little American Her of War. - Many I deas, new to you, much have presented there aloud in Such a Scene; and you will in future letter works from the Relations of he hyggement. I rejoice estrang at It Prelimber Detition to open an Hospital. Kut I hope, the Buinofo will be dene upon a larger Scale. I hope, that are Hospital will be brienal in way founts, if not in every Form, I am hoppy to find you wroked, the will the Children, in the fint 6 laft . - was whitney and this that Luis ey, are sleavely through Invantation, in this Git. I have one power to ask, and that is, that in your fature detters, you would acknowledge the Receipt of all thefe you may receive from me, and mention their Sates. - by this Means I thall know if any of mine The Tufu matin you give me of our Knieds refusing his Appoint must hes friend me much Pain, grief and Andrity. I believe I that he obliged to talk his to follow his Example . I have not Buture enough to Support my Family, and what is of more huputance, to hopport the Dignit of that easted Station From the Adams Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society. Not to be reproduced without permission.

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