

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

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

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.

Your Favour of June 17. dated at Plymouth, was handed me, by yesterday's 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 Description 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 were 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 extremely at Dr Bralfo's Intention to open an Hospital. But I hope, the Business will be done upon a larger Scale. I hope, that our Hospital will be situated in every County, if not in every Town. I am happy to find you resolved, to be with the Children, in the first Class. - No solitary and solitary Journey, are slowly through Inconvenience, in this Gift.

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.

From the Adams Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society.
Not to be reproduced without permission.

Usage Statement:

All Rights Reserved

"All rights reserved" is a traditional copyright term that indicates that the copyright holder reserves for his/her/their own use all of the rights given to copyright owners under U.S. copyright law. Items that are included in NCPedia and/or ANCHOR with this rights statement appear by agreement or permission from the rights holder or the institution that holds the item. Click "Available at" to visit the website for the collection where the item appears for more information about the rights or specific uses allowed. For all other non-specified uses, please contact the copyright holder or item owner.