

# TWO VIEWS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE: JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS





**EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS  
OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS**

**FROM**

***FAMILIAR LETTERS OF JOHN ADAMS AND HIS WIFE  
ABIGAIL ADAMS, DURING THE REVOLUTION  
WITH A MEMOIR OF MRS. ADAMS***

**BY CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS**



**John Adams**  
**Letter to Abigail Adams**  
**July 3, 1776**  
**On the Resolution for Independence**



**“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival.”**

**John Adams**  
**Letter to Abigail Adams**  
**July 3, 1776**  
**On the Resolution for Independence**



**“It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.”**

**John Adams**  
**Letter to Abigail Adams**  
**July 3, 1776**  
**On the Resolution for Independence**



**“You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure 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 ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means. And that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction, even although we should rue it, which I trust in God we shall not.”**

**Abigail Adams**  
**Letter to John Adams**  
**July 21, 1776**  
**On the Declaration of Independence**



**“Last Thursday, after hearing a very good sermon, I went with the multitude into King Street to hear the Proclamation for Independence read and proclaimed. Some field-pieces with the train were brought there. The troops appeared under arms, and all the inhabitants assembled there (the small-pox prevented many thousands from the country), when Colonel Crafts read from the balcony of the State House the proclamation.”**

# **Abigail Adams**

## **Letter to John Adams**

### **July 21, 1776**

#### **On the Declaration of Independence**



**“Great attention was given to every word. As soon as he ended, the cry from the balcony was, ‘God save our American States,’ and then three cheers which rent the air. The bells rang, the privateers fired, the forts and batteries, the cannon were discharged, the platoons followed, and every face appeared joyful. Mr. Bowdoin then gave a sentiment, ‘Stability and perpetuity to American independence.’”**

**Abigail Adams  
Letter to John Adams  
July 21, 1776  
On the Declaration of Independence**



**“After dinner, the King's Arms were taken down from the State House, and every vestige of him from every place in which it appeared, and burnt in King Street. Thus ends royal authority in this State. And all the people shall say Amen.”**



**FOR MORE ABOUT JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS**

**SEE**

***JOHN ADAMS* BY DAVID MCCULLOUGH**

**AND**

***DEAREST FRIEND: A LIFE OF ABIGAIL ADAMS***

**BY LYNNE WITHEY**

