

Abigail Adams to Richard Rush, July 14, 1817.

My dear Sir  
Quincy July 14<sup>th</sup> 1817

I owe you many thanks for the early notice which you transmitted me, of Mr Adams's acceptance of the ~~Appointment~~ of Minister to the United States, I have remained without any direct communication from him. The letter which I inclose for your perusal, I regret not having received it any or two days sooner, that I might have had the pleasure of communicating it to the President when he did us the favour of dining with us. - His tour through the N<sup>e</sup> States has been highly gratifying to the people, and conciliatory to parties, who have mingled without distinction at the festive board, and public exhibitions, the agreeable affability, and unassuming manners of the President, with his polite attentions to all orders and ranks, has made a deep and lasting impression here, and his industry and distribution of time, has enabled him to visit the most important posts, and have access to review our militia, to visit many of our principal manufactures, to inspect our literary institutions - and to behold the birth of our nation in the numerous progeny rising into life to be its future glory and defence - - upon the day of the President's entrance into Boston, I was one of the many thousands who witnessed the scene seated at a window from whence I had a full view - - not a sound of a voice was heard, from the thousands, who on horse back, on carriages and on foot, preceded, and followed him. The streets were thronged, the windows filled, the house tops crowded - - yet all was respectful silence, no Swissish tumult, not a disgusting being to be seen, all well clad and neat in their persons. This cannot be said of any Regent in Europe, Boston, once the Head quarters of good principles show to Europe her sister States, in the splendour of her reception

Courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

of the President, by way as I laughingly told some of them - of Separation!  
but not all the glittering pomp of the Husbands, and the military parade of pomp  
and show. had half the touching interest which a display of the children male  
and female, drawn up in numbers, in a large hall, beautiful and picturesque  
by nature, was rendered doubly interesting, by presenting to view three thousand  
five hundred & thirty children all in uniform with their parents at their head  
an ample space was left open for the President to pass through, while the children  
each paid their respectful reverence to the Head of the Nation.

I hope the President will return  
to the Seat of Government, not worn out, and exhausted as we have feared, but  
pleased, and gratified, with the manifestation of the good will of the people towards him;  
and with an enlarged knowledge of the Nation, over which he is to preside.

Please to say to Mrs. Wash, that I had  
the pleasure of seeing her nephew who was introduced to me, and in whose  
countenance I thought I recognized the features of his Mother.

I received a few days since  
a very kind Letter from your good Mother, in reply to one which I had  
given to my granddaughter Mrs. DeWint. who with her Husband, were on a  
visit to Philadelphia. The news paper says, that you are  
to be the Successor of my Son. I will not be so selfish as to regret it, upon  
his account, altho I know it will be a personal loss to him at Washington,  
where ever you are. I shall lay claim to a maternal interest in you. The  
Letter which I have inclosed, you will be so good as to return, the disposition  
which it manifests was so pleasing to me, that I flatter myself it would  
be so to you. I inquired of the President after your Health, and he  
spoke of you, in a manner congenial to my feelings, and with a warmth  
of expression which left not a doubt of its sincerity. - Present me kindly  
to Mrs. Wash. and believe me ever affectionately Yours.

A Adams

[Transcription Page 1]

My Dear Sir

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[Transcription Page 2]

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