John Adams' letter to his wife, Abigail, dated July 3rd, 1776:

"The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epocha in the History of America.-

America. - I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by fue ceeding Generatied, as the great anniver fang to place ought to be communicately, as the day of blowing the ought to be communicately, as the day of blowing the by Sommer and Perale ought to be communical with Pomp and Parade ought to be Somes, Spenty Guns, Bells Bonfied with thems, Games, Spenty Guns, Bells Bonfied with thems, Games, Spenty Guns, Bells Bonfied with thems, Games from one had of this Com and Alberrisations from one had of this Com and the ment to the other from their time forward to ment to the other from their time forward for were made.

You will think me transported with bethunder but I am not I am well aware of the Tail

and Blood and Inefine that it will coffells to main tains this Sular atters and support and de find the States. - But through all the Gloren I can be the Anys of rainfring Sight and

Glory. I can be that the End is more than worth all the Meant. And that Pofterity will tryumph in Must Days Transaction were atthe We should me it, which I have as God Historial not "

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. 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 Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

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 tryumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.