

Tuesday evening 21 November 1820.

This has been a memorable day - In the morning M^r Quincy had the goodness to call, & invite me to dine at his house with Pres[ident] Adams - - The Court was to sit at ½ past 3 & I had a cause in near approximation; but I could not resist, & stipulating for an early departure, I accepted - I expected to meet only the venerable patriot - & the Lieut[enant] Gov[ernor] - But there were also present, Hon[ourable] Jno. Phillips - Miss^{rs} Jona[than] Phillips & Edw[ard] Phillips - and M^r Guild - - On entering, & being presented to the Pres[ident], he squeezed my hand very affectionately - and said “I did not know till lately, that you had any Quincy blood in you.” -

This alluded to his having inquired, after my visit to him in Sept[ember] last concerning my connexion with Aunt Scott - wh[ich] led to the discovery of my distant relationship to the Quincy's - // - M^{rs} Q[uiincy] said, “They had often wondered what made M^r Gallison so clever a fellow, & now it was accounted for.” There was some other pleasant jesting, till other company came in. - M^{rs} Morton, mother of M^{rs} Q[uiincy] was also there. - At table, the Pres[ident] was rather silent, but very pleasant - & seemed to enjoy highly what was said. And he occasionally uttered a good thought, neatly expressed. - He said he heard Burke's speech at Warren Hasting's trial - and that M^r B[urke]'s voice was audible eno' - He was asked by Judge Phillips if there was any instance, except in America, in wh[ich] those persons, who had been at the head of a great nation, could live undisturbed in retirement - M^r Adams said, he remembered no such instance - The Queen of Sweden was very glad to escape from her dominions - - The late King of Engl[and] & Queen of Portugal lived in quiet, but they were both insane - - -

M^r Quincy gave, as a sentiment, “The Convention, & those whom it has delighted to honor” - - The Pres[ident] to my surprize, after a momentary pause, drank it & repeated the words - but he added - “and that is all, for I have never seen any body of men conduct with so perfect propriety one towards another” - - “The Secretary of State” was M^r Q[uiincy]'s next toast - He then excused himself for half an hour to go and

organize a committee, of wh[ich] he is chairman -
- Judge Phillips called on Pres[ident] Adams for
a sentiment - The Pres[ident] waited but a mo-
ment, and premising that “the sentiments given
to-day came home to our bosoms” - he said, he
would give - “~~the~~ Long life, for the good of others,
to the donor of this house - and perpetual health
& blessings to the donees” - This neat senti-
ment, alluding to the generous gift by the Lieut[enant]
Governor, who was present, to M^{rs} Quincy, of the
house, where we were dining, and into which M^r Q[uincy]
has moved only a few weeks since, went to the hearts
of all - M^{rs} Q[uincy] and her excellent daughter seemed
to feel it deeply - -

I had been for some time waiting in trembling
apprehension of the tinkling of the Court bell - &
now, as it grew late, was obliged reluctantly to
depart - I am not often so pleasantly situated.

I was not able to go to the Tuesday meeting
at Uncle Sewall's, till a late hour - but I found
a pleasant circle - and passed the hour happily.