

U. S. This Independence
Boston Harbour
May 20th 1816

Madam.

You will (I hope) excuse me for addressing you
openly and without preamble when informed of the sub-
ject - of the most interesting moment in the concerns of
mankind. What I anxiously hope and now presume to
ask for is no less than the hand of your daughter in
marriage. A constant wish to appreciate justly a sin-
cere and firm attachment returned, will be the uncea-
sing spur to every exertion to promote her happiness.
I labour under the disadvantage of being a stranger to
you. I need not say that makes my situation delicate
in addressing you. But I will rely on your indulgence
and beg leave to refer you to Mrs. Abigail Adams for
particulars respecting me. For the reason mentioned
I am fearful of giving offence by remarks. But
permit me to say Madam I have not in contemplation