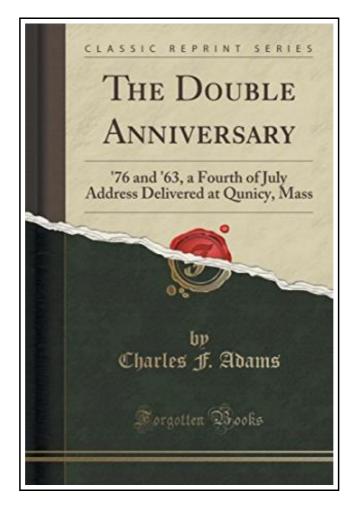
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from The Double Anniversary: 76 and 63, a Fourth of July Address Delivered at Qunicy, Mass I hold in my hand a letter dated the 23rd of June, 1793. It was written by John Quincy Adams, then a young man of six and twenty, to his brother, Thomas Boylston Adams, at the time a student of law in Philadelphia. Both he who wrote it and he who received it are long since dead; and the first, an aged man of over eighty, we laid beside his father beneath the walls of this church now one and twenty years ago. A few short lines from this letter I shall put in the forefront of my address, that they may cover up with you my own shortcomings; for to me within the last few days this passage has possessed a peculiar force and meaning. I have an oration to deliver on the 4th of next month, as you know. I have written and committed it to memory, and am thoroughly disgusted with it. While I was writing, I thought myself quite brilliant as I advanced; and was pleasing myself with future applauses at almost every sentence that issued from my pen. Now it appears to me a mass of dull common-place, composed of stale facts, hacknied sentiments, veteran similes and trite allusions, with scarce a single gleam of originality, shooting through the solid darkness of the composition. The humble merits of the average of similar performances are now my greatest consolation. However indifferent my execution, I shall not easily place myself in a style of inferiority upon comparison. If such were the trials of the 4th of July...

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