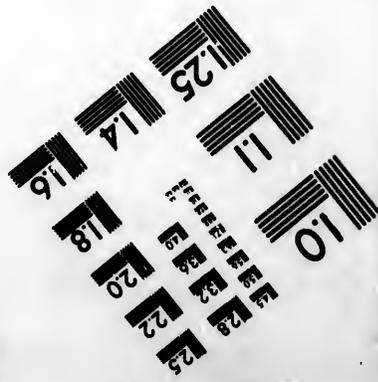
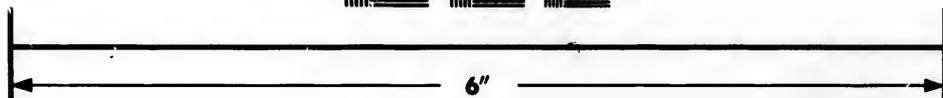
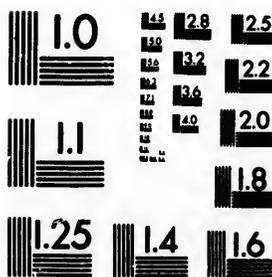


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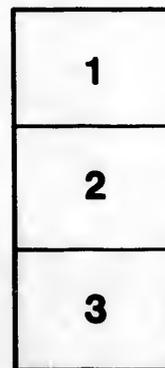
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P A P E R S relative to the Settling of
the **MAROONS** in His Majesty's Province
of Nova Scotia.

Ordered to be printed 22d February 1798.

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L I S T.

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No. 1.

Extract of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Bart.
to the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova-Scotia,
7th May 1797.

MR. QUARRELL, Commissary for settling the Maroons in this Province, has communicated to me a Letter he has received from Earl Balcarres, accompanied by a Copy of a Resolution of the House of Assembly of Jamaica, providing for the Expence of this Measure until July next, and limiting the subsequent to Ten Pounds Sterling per Head; that is to say, Men, Women, and Children; which will be very insufficient for the Purpose. It is my Duty humbly to represent to your Grace, that a larger Sum will be indispensably necessary for their Aid and Support, from July 1797 to July 1798; and to entreat your Grace's Instructions to me hereupon.

Mr. Quarrell intends proceeding to England on his own private Affairs in August next. He is fully sensible, that the Sum proposed by the House of Assembly in Jamaica, is greatly inadequate; nor will it be possible for them to remain in this Province without a more ample and longer continued Support, which must be dispensed to their various Cases and Wants, with an Ability and Knowledge derived from Experience; the Want of which will delay the good Effects intended, although resulting from an upright Exercise of the best Intentions, and Zeal in their Interests. They have not yet overcome the Apprehensions caused by the extreme, rigorous, and unusually long Winter, and backward Spring, which has only this Day given any pleasant Warmth; and both together have been near Three Months longer than has been known since the Settlement of Halifax in the Year 1749. Added to this, they unfortunately got an Idea among them of being embodied as Soldiers for the Cape of Good Hope, and India, with their Women and Children, where they say, "Give us Arms and Ammunition, and put us on Shore, we will make Room for ourselves;" that is, they would murder and plunder the Inhabitants, if they could only live in the Woods all the Year round. These Impressions, for the present, a little unhinge their good Dispositions to Labour, but I trust will subside by Degrees. They still attend public Worship on Sundays; and, Twice a Week, they go to the Clergyman for Explanations and Instructions on the Service of the preceding Sunday; and the Children constantly at School, learning to read and write with Decency and Diligence. I am therefore induced to entreat your Grace's Favour toward the Support of the Missionary or Chaplain, and Schoolmaster, amounting in the Whole to Two hundred and Forty Pounds Sterling per Annum. These Gentlemen have faithfully and usefully performed their Duty, and continue resident therein, notwithstanding the Apprehensions naturally excited by such a People.

No. 2.

Extract of a LETTER from the Duke of PORTLAND to Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Bart. dated June 1797.

I HAVE attentively considered the several Circumstances you have stated relative to the Maroons, and can easily conceive that the singular Length and Severity of the late Winter, joined to the delusive Hopes, very improperly held out to them, of serving as a Corps at the Cape of Good Hope, instead of preparing them for a Mode of Life so different in all its Functions from that to which they have been accustomed, must have made an Impression on their Minds extremely unfavourable to the Plan laid down of their becoming gradually domesticated in the Settlement allotted to them. The first Thing therefore to be done, is to set them right in Regard to the strange and irregular Notions which have been insinuated amongst them, of serving at the Cape, and distinctly and unequivocally to explain to them the Conduct they must pursue, and the Duties they are on their Parts to perform within the Colony, to render His Majesty's great Benevolence to them, effectual to the Ends and Purposes for which it is intended.

With respect to the Expence which may be incurred on their Account until such Time as they are able to provide for themselves (which you will endeavour of Course to effect in the least possible Space of Time) the Amount of it must be defrayed by the Island of Jamaica, conformably to the Intention, originally expressed by its Legislature at the Time the Maroons were sent to Nova Scotia: Should the Commissary therefore, who is now resident within your Province for the Purpose of defraying those Expences, and attending to the Management of the Maroons, be withdrawn, you are to take especial Care that, previous to his Departure, a proper Arrangement be made for defraying the Expences of the Maroons; as no Part of the Charge on their Account, can possibly be borne by this Country.

N^o 3.

Copy of a LETTER (N^o 45.) from Sir John WENTWORTH
to the Duke of Portland; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia,
2d June 1797;

(Two Inclosures.)

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2d June 1797.

MY LORD DUKE,

IN a Meeting I had with the Maroons, on the 28th May, they generally expressed to me their Apprehensions of the Severity they had experienced of this Climate, the last Winter and Spring; which has indeed been much longer and more rigorous than has been known since the Settlement of Halifax in the Year 1749. Notwithstanding which, they have suffered less Sickness than the White Inhabitants of the Province, in Proportion to their respective Numbers; and do, at this Day, exhibit great Health and Strength, beyond any other People, as there are now only One dangerous, and One invalid Case, among Five hundred and Thirty-two Persons, and the former an old Complaint, deemed incurable in Jamaica; which is more fully explained in the Letter, herewith inclosed, from Dr. Oxley, Surgeon of His Majesty's late 96th Regiment, who had the Care of them in Jamaica and on their Passage to this Place, and at my Request still continues to live with them as their Physician, being a prudent well-disposed Man, eminent in his Profession, kindly attached to these People, and better acquainted with their Constitutions, Habits, and Dispositions, than any other Man; and therefore is and can be peculiarly useful to them: Which he consents to pursue, with such Duty and Zeal towards His Majesty's Service, that I humbly hope it will recommend him to your Grace's favourable Consideration, in his Solicitation to be confirmed in the Rank he held in the late 96th Regiment.

Impressed with Fears of this Climate, and that Subsistence must hereafter be obtained by Labour, and encouraged with Expectations, evidently suggested to them, that they would be removed into some other Country, where their Valour would make them happy and great, if they would say they were dissatisfied here and wished to be removed into a warm Country; they very naturally have expressed such Sentiments to me, and I promised to transmit their Request, as in the inclosed Paper N^o 2, for His Majesty's Pleasure thereupon. As I am perfectly satisfied that these People do not suffer no real Detriment from the Climate; that they are, and will be as comfortable, and in due Time as fully satisfied as they ever can or will be in any Country where War, Hunting, and uncultivated Modes of living is not their whole Object; and that they would not now have made any Request, had it not been for injudicious Suggestions; I convinced them of the Wisdom of trying another Year, when their Wishes might be more reasonable and merit more Consideration. This was unanimously approved; and I trust by that Time will produce the best Effect.

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In the mean Time we are assiduously preparing more Houses and other Conveniencies, which it was impossible to prepare last Season, and of Course they were less accommodated than we intended.

It is with great Pleasure that I beg leave, with the utmost Deference, to assure your Grace that these People continue to behave quietly; are sensible that they receive every Kindness from Government and from the Inhabitants here; and declare a full Confidence in me, and the greatest Affection and Attachment. And also, that I do not find any just Cause to alter my former Sentiments and Expectations respecting their Residence in this Country, although in the Progress of their Civilization and Settlement, frequent Obstructions and Difficulties must be expected to arise, which must be combated by Prudence, Patience, Disinterestedness, and firm Perseverance.

Upon this Conference, and on every other Intercourse, I have made it an indispensable Preliminary, that they should faithfully and cordially conform to whatever may be His Majesty's Commands; which they readily agree to.

Since my last Dispatch, (N^o 44.) Mr. Quarrell, who has the Welfare of the Maroons much at Heart, and kindly co-operates with me for their true Interest and happy Establishment in this Country, has communicated Instructions he has received from the Legislature of Jamaica, to convey all the Property appropriated by them for settling the Maroons, to His Majesty for that Purpose, on the 2^d July next, when he proposes to sail for England, and to commit the whole Trust to my Direction, until His Majesty's Pleasure is further signified. It is unavoidably necessary that I should therefore administer this important Charge accordingly. I have hereupon conferred with Mr. Ouchterlong, who was Deputy Commissary, and has Qualifications to be useful; who consents to remain with them, and faithfully and cordially to use his utmost Endeavours to do away any improper Ideas that may have arisen, and to carry my Directions into Effect; in which Case I may represent his Services, with a just Hope that they will be graciously considered.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

J. WENTWORTH.

His Grace the Duke of Portland.

(N^o 1. In Sir JOHN WENTWORTH's, of 2d June 1797.)

Maroon Town, 31st May 1797.

SIR,

I FIND it unnecessary to make a particular Review of the Maroons to answer your Enquiries respecting their Condition as to Health. There is one Woman only, whose Situation is dangerous, and she has been ill long before she left Jamaica, or I had any Concern with them; One Boy is also in an invalid State, and some few of the very Old have Rheumatic Complaints, which the increasing Warmth of the Summer will relieve. To speak
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in general of them at this Time, I can venture to pronounce them as healthy as any Set of People on Earth. On their First landing in July last Year, we met with many Losses, principally owing to their long Confinement on Board of the Ships, and the Badness of the Water about the Blue Bell, occasioned by the great Drought at that Time. On their Removal here, they in general recovered fast, but some far gone, dropt off, mostly Old. They continued very well until February and March, when we had much Sickness, chiefly Pleurisies and Sore Throats, but from which most of them recovered. Our Decrease in the Whole is 19, allowing for the Children born, and there is the greatest Probability in a few Weeks, that the Excess will be 10 or 12, Thirty-two Women being now big with Child. I would, with your Permission, recommend Inoculation in the End of the Year, and previous thereto, during the Summer Months, frequent Sea-bathing.

I have the honour to be,
&c. &c. &c.

JOHN OXLEY.

His Excellency Sir John Wentworth, Bart.

(N^o. 2. In Sir JOHN WENTWORTH'S, of 2d June 1797.)

To Colonel MONTAGUE JAMES, and Captain SMITH, in Behalf of
and for the Maroons, now residing at Preston, in the Province of
Nova Scotia.

WHEREAS from Misinformation, and Want of sufficient Experience in the Climate and Manner of Industry, and providing Support for numerous Families in this Country, and having been much terrified and alarmed with the Length and extreme Severity of the last Winter, from whence Apprehensions have arisen among you and your People, that you cannot inhabit this Country with any Comfort to your Families, and are therefore desirous that the same should be represented to His Majesty, together with your Request to be removed to some warmer Country; but that you will further represent your Wishes on this Day Twelvemonth, viz. on the 28th Day of May in the Year 1798, to be then transmitted, with all possible Dispatch, to be laid before His Majesty for His Royal Will and Pleasure thereupon, that if it should be commanded to remove the Maroons from this Country, there may be Time to accomplish such Commands before the then ensuing Winter: I will on my Part write by the Princess Royal Packet, now in this Harbour, and represent these Requests of the Maroons for His Royal Consideration: On the other Part, you and each of you, are to continue to exert your best Endeavours to cultivate and improve the Buildings and Estate whereon you now reside and occupy, and that you will faithfully obey and execute my Orders and Directions in all Things.

(Signed) J. WENTWORTH.

Preston, Nova Scotia,
28th May 1797.

No. 4.

Copy of a LETTER (No. 49.) from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Bart. to the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, 10th July 1797.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 10th July 1797.

MY LORD DUKE,

I N the Dispatch (No. 45.) I had the Honour to represent to your Grace, that I had arranged with Mr. Ouchterlong, Deputy Commissary of Maroons, to remain with them another Year: But finding that the Benefits contemplated, towards encouraging Industry and other interior Regulations among them, have not been produced, nor now reasonably expected from his Assistance; I have prevailed on Mr. Quarrell to postpone his intended Voyage to Jamaica for some Time, and to continue his good Offices among these People; which he has benevolently consented to, as he is humanely interested for the Welfare and happy Settlement of the Maroons in this Province. Other Views and Objects having been evidently entertained since Christmas last by Mr. Ouchterlong, has in some Measure retarded the Progress that might otherwise be obtained, and which we concur in Opinion will proceed better when Mr. Ouchterlong is removed from them. They still continue to be quiet and orderly. Buildings and other Necessaries for their Comfort are preparing. One Family of Twenty-eight Persons, led by a noted Captain, removes this Day to a separate Estate, at his own earnest Request, to settle for Life; and I have several other similar Applications, which will be acceded to, and, except a very few Families, will probably be soon followed by the Remainder.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. WENTWORTH.

No. 5.

Copy of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Baronet,
to his Grace the Duke of PORTLAND, dated the 12th August
1797.

(Two Inclosures.)

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 12th August 1797.

MY LORD,

WITH the utmost Respect I beg leave to acknowledge the Honour of your Grace's Letter, (N^o 25) dated Whitehall, 12th June 1797. In obedience to your Grace's Commands, I shall embrace an early Opportunity to inform the Maroons, that they are no longer to expect or look forward to a Removal from this Province. This Decision will soon eradicate the erroneous Impressions which have been introduced among them by Persons, evidently desirous of getting Possession of these poor People for the Sake of the Means afforded for their Support and Settlement. From this Source are the Letters from hence secretly written to Major General Walpole, and others, of unfelt Distresses which the Writers taught the Maroons to complain of, and afterwards exaggerated in their Description, far beyond any Resemblance. It would too much trespass on your Grace's highly-important Time, to delineate the unworthy Practices used to dissatisfy and make these People complain of the Climate, and to persuade them that a Memorial to Government would be readily acceded to, and unknown Advantages would result to them. With such People it is in vain to reason. In Compassion, therefore, to these Prejudices, to their Ignorance, and to their future Comfort, I transmitted their Petition; finding they had been instructed to refer themselves to a Determination from the King as a final Rule, which they promised to embrace.

As soon as the Commission of Mr. Quarrell and Mr. Ouchterlong determined, I immediately appointed Captain Howe, of the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment, to take Charge of the Maroons, and to conduct their Business, under my Instructions, in all Things; Lieutenant General His Royal Highness Prince Edward having arranged Captain Howe's Regimental Duty into that Precinct, at my Request, as he is peculiarly qualified for that Service, and is aided therein by his Military Authority. I cannot better describe this Gentleman's Character, than is done by Mr. Quarrell's Letter, N^o 1; nor the State of the Maroons more exactly than in Captain Howe's Answer, N^o 2; herewith inclosed: Both of which were entirely without my Knowledge, until handed to me by Mr. Quarrell. From the Time Captain Howe went to, and Mr. Ouchterlong left them, they are giving up the foolish Ideas that had in some Degree retarded their Progress in Cultivation and Settlement, notwithstanding some Letters received from London,

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the 7th Instant, by those who had promised to remove them, written with lamentably misguided Zeal, and from Motives of Humanity were soon and secretly conveyed to them. Mr. Ouchterlong in a few Days departs from this Country; and I am convinced the People themselves will be not only more happy and comfortable, but rejoice in his Absence.

Before Mr. Quarrell departs, I shall take Care to obtain from him every Measure in his Power, that the Island of Jamaica shall continue to provide for the Expence of settling and establishing the Maroons as long and as amply as their Circumstances may fairly require. He concurs fully in the Justice and Wisdom of such Arrangement, and does not admit a Doubt but that the Government there will still provide for this Measure, which is of such essential Service to the Credit, Safety, and Value of Property of the Island, and which they themselves proceeded upon of their own Accord, and without any previous Communication or Notice whatever.

By some Mistake, Mr. Quarrell's late Bill, as Commissary in Behalf and on Account of the Island of Jamaica, on Messrs. Milligan and Mitchell of London, are returned protested, as they had required Ninety Days more than the Usance of the Bills. To remedy this, and still cause the Expenditure to be carried on, on account of and from the Grants made by the Island of Jamaica, a considerable Part of which is yet undrawn when these Bills are paid, I have indorsed Mr. Quarrell's Bills, amounting to £. 6,050. 4 s. 8 d. Sterling; and I have promised that in case of Refusal at Messrs. Milligan and Mitchell's, they might be presented for Payment at His Majesty's Treasury. Without this Mode of Credit, Mr. Quarrell could not fulfil his Engagements, nor carry on the daily Subsistence and Necessaries of the People, and I must have been indispensably obliged to have provided for the Emergency, conformable to your Grace's Instructions on their Arrival here. I have every Reason to believe these Bills will be duly paid. I am, however, a great Discredit and considerable Loss to the Island, that Bills due and drawn on their Account should be protested.

As the whole Expenditure will now pass under my own Controul and Direction, I shall not fail to have it done in the fairest and most distinct Manner, and, expressly, solely upon the Account of the Island of Jamaica; whereto Accounts shall be carefully transmitted, and also Copies for your Grace's Information.

I have the Honour, &c.
 (Signed) J. WENTWORTH.

His Grace the Duke of Portland, &c. &c. &c.

(N^o 1. In Sir JOHN WENTWORTH's, of the 12th August 1797.)

Dartmouth, 8th August 1797.

DEAR SIR,

AS I have some Regard for your Opinion respecting the Settlement of the Maroons in Nova Scotia, I take the Liberty of offering to your Consideration some Queries, which, I must candidly tell you, I wish to transmit with your Answers to England, if you will permit to me. When it is known the Charge of the Maroons is in your Hands, under the general Direction of Sir John Wentworth, the Public of Jamaica, and those concerned therein resident in England, will learn with Pleasure it is in the Hands of a Man of no inconsiderable Knowledge of the World, but more particularly of Nova Scotia and Jamaica, where a great Portion of your Life has been spent; and that particularly from your long Residence in the latter, and Knowledge of a considerable Part of the Maroons and the Maroon Country, you reasonably may be supposed to have as great an Influence over them as most Men can have; besides the further Advantages looked for from your having settled Farms from the Woods here, and, I learn, as competent as any Man in this Colony, as a Cultivator, your Situation as a respectable and useful Member of the Legislature, and many other Considerations, enable me with Pleasure to mention your Name among those, to many of whom you are no Stranger, and announce your taking upon yourself an Office, which I do not flatter you in saying there is no Man here fit for but yourself.

Q. 1. Is it your Opinion that the Maroons can be settled and disposed of in Nova Scotia?

Q. 2. Is the Climate less tolerable to those than other Blacks?

Q. 3. Does it appear they can and will work, if encouraged?

Q. 4. What appears to have influenced them against settling and providing for their own Comfort?

Your answering the above after due Deliberation, and Permission to forward the same with this to Mr. Sewell, our Agent, will greatly oblige

Yours, &c.
(Signed) W. D. QUARRELL.

(N^o 2. In Sir JOHN WENTWORTH'S, 12th August 1797.)

Maroon Hall, 9th August 1797.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING been honoured with your Letter of the 8th Instant, I thank you for the good Opinion you express of my Capacity to execute the important Trust to which I have the Honour to be appointed by his Excellency Sir John Wentworth. No Doubt my local Knowledge of this Country, and Acquaintance with the Situation of the Maroon Settlements in some Parts of Jamaica, and a general Knowledge of that Island, will be of essential Use to the Service in which I am employed (I hope) for the Benefit of the Maroons. I have the Satisfaction to tell you, I have Reason to think I possess a considerable Portion of the Confidence and Regard of the Maroons entrusted to my Care: I shall use neither, but for their Benefit and Happiness.

The Confidence his Excellency Sir John Wentworth has reposed in me, on this and many other Occasions, will from Principles of Gratitude to him, as well as a Regard for my own Honour; stimulate every Faculty I possess to meet his Wishes and gain his Approbation of my Conduct, with respect to the Objects to be pursued. I have lively Hopes that those concerned for the Interests of the Island of Jamaica, will have no Cause to disapprove his Excellency's good Opinion of my Zeal, in the Exertion of my best Abilities for the Interests I am appointed to support.

Your Queries I will answer with Candour, and from the best Opinion I have been able to form. To your First, "*I am of Opinion that the Maroons can be settled and disposed of in Nova Scotia.*" Occasional Gifts of warm Cloathing and Shoes for a few Years, Provisions for a limited Time, and an Extension of this Indulgence in particular Cases, with all Farming and Gardening Utensils, will naturally be supposed requisite: It would be so, go where they would. It is not in the First, Second, or *Third* Year, that Men with large Families of small Children, without Funds, can support themselves and Families in any new Country, however great their Industry. It will take considerable Time before all their necessary Wants can be supplied from their own Labour, however prolific the Soil. Lands can be procured in this Province, of excellent Quality, and in any Quantity, by Grant, Escheat, or light Purchases; and there is no Doubt in my Mind, that with the above Aids, they would be comfortably settled and disposed of in Nova Scotia.

Many Black People are now in this Country, well settled, and living at their Ease, with their Families, on their own Lands, with large Stocks of Cattle, who began Thirteen Years ago with nothing but their own Labour, and an Allowance of Provisions from His Majesty for a limited Time, to depend upon. Others residing in the Towns, or in the Country

Country, occupied as Servants or Labourers, under mild Servitude and liberal Wages (indeed more than in any other Part of the World.)

The Influence of Thomas Peters among the Black People who came to this Province at the Clofe of the laft War; the Attachment of the Blacks to the Whole extent of their Families, impelling them always to act together, and even to confider as One Family thofe who came from the fame Country or Province; an injudicious and unjust Mode of affigning them their Lands; the *whole Management* of them throughout the Province on their firft Arrival in this Colony, by the feveral Agents employed by the Loyalifts, together with the great Advantages and Allurements held out to them by the Company, were the real Caufes of fo many removing to Sierre Leone: The Removal did not arife from *any other Caufes*. I was employed by the late Governor Parr, to affift their Removal from the County of Annapolis, and was perfectly well acquainted with their Motives. Many of thefe Unfortunates, I am afraid, repent leaving this Country, even though they laboured under fome difagreeable Circumftances with refpect to their Lands. This much I fay on this Subject, to fhew that the Removal of thefe People did proceed, not from the Difficulty of fettling and difpofing of them in this Province, but the neglecting to do it *properly, with other Caufes*.

To your Second Quere—I cannot fuppofe that this Climate can be “*lefs tolerable to the Maroons than to any other Blacks*.”—Many of the Blacks now fettled here, came from the warm fultry Climates of Virginia, the Two Carolinas, Georgia, and the Two Floridas. It is well known that the Heat of thefe Countries is as intense, and in fome Places as continued, as it is in Jamaica in its warmeft Parts. Thofe People here enjoy perfect Health, are induftrious, hardy, and frugal, and now form, in many Parts of this Province, the principal Sources for Labour and Improvement.

I think, that in a little Time the Maroons will bear this Climate *better than other Blacks*. Except Three Months in the Year, which may be made very tolerable to them by warm Houfes and large Fires, I do not think the Difference of the Climate greater between the Mountains of Jamaica and Nova Scotia, for Nine Months of our Common Seafons, than it is between the Mountains and Kingfton, Spanifh Town, Old Harbour, Worthy Wood, Savana-la-mar, and the Sea Coaft of Saint Thomas in the Eaft. I have been in the Blue Mountains (and at fome of the Maroon Towns, when I have for many Days been glad of the Comfort of a warm Fire during the Day and Night, and feveral warm Blankets on my Bed. At Mr. Waller’s at Cold Spring, and at Chefter Vale, Two Miles beyond it, Chimneys are in the Houfes as they are here. * That this Climate is

* European Vegetables grow on the Mountains of Jamaica, back of Cold Spring, in as high Perfection as ever I faw in any Climate; viz. Carrots, Perfinsps, Beets, Potatoes, Cabbages, Lettuce, &c. &c. and alfo very fine Apples, with which I have feen Trees loaded particularly at Mr. Smith’s Mountain.

nor injurious to their Health, is evident from their present Situation, none being (as I understand) ill, but such as brought their Disorders with them. The Deaths that have happened in this Province amongst the Maroons, has been owing to a long Passage; the Number of Births lately, has nearly made the Number equal, and in a few Weeks will probably exceed the Number embarked at Jamaica. These are Circumstances, Sir, that may be better known to you than myself; but among so many People in their native Climate, old and young, I never saw, in any Part of the World, more Health and less Disease.

Your Third Quere I can answer from Experience, "*that they will work if encouraged.*" A Proof is, that I have, on Application, given Passes to a great many who have engaged themselves to labour for several Gentlemen at Halifax, by the Week, and by the Month. Many are employed about the Country, and get high Wages for clearing Land, making Hay, driving Carts, and various other Labours. I find no Difficulty to get as many Maroons to labour as I want, at very low Wages, to make Bricks, dig Cellars, carry Stones, hoe Potatoes, make Hay, or do any Thing I direct them to do. The Industry of the Women, Boys, and Girls, in gathering Strawberries and Raspberries, has been unremitted. They carry them to Halifax, with a Certainty of selling them at a good Price there, by making Money to supply themselves with many Comforts, not provided for by the Establishment. Many of the Men are anxious to have their Portion of Land laid out for them, that they may know *their own Labour* will be for their *own* future Benefit; and have themselves adopted an Idea, that Negro Yams (their favourite Food) will grow as it does in their Settlements in Jamaica, among their early Indian Corn; a Hint I mean to improve; and to forward which, his Excellency Sir John Wentworth has sent to Jamaica for Half a Ton of those Yams, to get into the Seed and try the Experiment. The First Object in my View, after my coming on the 22d July, was, by the Governor's Desire and Approbation, to give Instructions to a Surveyor, for the Purpose of laying out Lots for the Maroons, as far as the Land purchased was good, assigning the worst and least cultivatable for common Pasture, to which Purpose it is very competent. But the Rains have been so incessant ever since, that I cannot carry this Measure into Effect, may be for some Days. Some Families that have planted Potatoes about their Houses, have kept them in good Order, and almost all the Families have tolerable Cabbages growing, and express Sorrow that they had not this Spring made their Gardens more extensive, seeing the great Profit made by their Productions at Halifax Market, and they not able to avail themselves of it, from their Want of timely Exertion. The Cause of their not setting out with a good Inclination to work, was not certainly from Incapability on their Part; but most undoubtedly from some Influence, which taught them to expect Advantages from such Backwardness, to promote either their own general Views, or perhaps the particular ones of the most *deserving* among them. The Arrival of the Maroons in this County, after a long Voyage, sickly, driven from the Place of their Nativity; no Preparation for their immediate Reception; sudden Purchases obliged to be made to procure Houses habitable for them; *every Thing*

Thing at first conspired, with the longest and severest Winter known in this Country within the Memory of Man, to hurt and depress the Prospects before them.

They now see we have our Share of warm, and a long Continuance of comfortable Weather; Preparations making, as fast as possible, for their Accommodation, by the erecting of Six large commodious Houses, and a well-planned large School House for them. These Attentions will cheer their future Hopes, and give every Reason to expect, that the Experience of this Year will excite them to labour for themselves hereafter; every Propensity to which I shall endeavour to promote, by the Assignment of Lands, Example, and Instruction.

Your Fourth Quere—"What appears to have influenced them against settling and providing for their own Comfort?" can better be answered by those who were in the Habit of being with them from their Arrival, and observing the Conduct of your Assistant towards them, to the Day that I took Possession of my Charge: I can repeat nothing but from Hearsay, and that I would not choose to do. The first Time I ever saw the Maroons, and the only Time previous to my coming here to attend you for One Week, before the 22nd July, was in your Company, sometime in April last, when Colonel Leonard was also here. The Maroons then (*I believe by a Delegate*) expressed great Dissatisfaction at the Coldness of the Winter, and also laid some Strefs on the little Probability there was before them, to maintain their Families by their Labour, particularly such as had *Three or four Wives with Children by each*. These were the only *specific Reasons* assigned. All the Rest only went to general Objections to any cold Climate, and a wish to be removed to a warm one. They had not then experienced a Summer here; they had not seen Indian Corn come to Perfection; they had not an Idea the cold Weather was ever to cease; in short, it appeared to them, that no Place or Situation in the habitable Globe, was what they meant except a Return to their own Country under the Capitulation. When they were told that was never by them to be looked for, they then expressed a Wish to go to any Country of a similar Climate with the one they had left. Their Reasons, their Arguments, and Opinions, appeared to me to have been long studied. And they were all collected in a Body at the House, that they might have an Opportunity of expressing them before the then Company, for (to me) some latent Purpose. This Observation struck me, and I believe One or Two other Gentlemen at the same Time.

I also know, that One or Two Families who did work by planting Potatoes, &c. at Cold Harbour, have told me, that they had made themselves obnoxious to some of the leading People among the Maroons, and that they had been much discouraged and severely treated by Mr. Ouchterlong; and that much Discouragement was thrown on their Exertions, by knowing that Mr. Ouchterlong did not wish they should work.

The Disposition I find in the Maroons, so far as I can judge, indicates a Practability which may, and I hope will be guided to useful Labour. Many have a Turn for Trade, and practise it among themselves. Many

(E) of

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of the Younger Part are disposed to go to Service by the Month, but none are inclined to separate from their Families, or be at any Distance from the main Body of their People.

I have the Honour to be, with the greatest Regard,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) ALEX^R HOWE.

(N^o 53.)

W. D. Quarrell, Esquire.

N° 6.

Extract of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH to the Duke of Portland ; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 4th November 1797.

(N° 53.)

(One Inclosure.)

THE Maroons improve in their Conduct ; and I trust will gradually forget the Impressions made on their inexperienced and violent Minds by interested and ill-disposed Persons. They are healthy and increase, as appears by the Physician's Report herewith inclosed. Nor have they a single Complaint to offer. Those that were taught to them heretofore, now diminish ; and the mild pleasant Weather of this Autumn satisfies them that they can be comfortable. It is much to be regretted that the Island of Jamaica has not taken effectual Measures for Payment of the Bills drawn by Mr. Quarrell for their Support. The Bill-holders decline consenting to his Return to Jamaica ; and the Refusal of his Drafts has so effectually suspended his Credit, that he could not obtain any Money or Supplies for them, neither would any Person take his Bills on any Terms. I have therefore been unavoidably necessitated to conduct this Service, and draw Bills on Messrs. Milligan and Mitchell, on account of the Island of Jamaica, referring them, in case of Difficulty, to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury. By this Mode, the Island will pay in the First Instance, and according to their Engagements, or be ultimately responsible for it. Mr. Quarrell feels himself much injured by the Dishonour to his Bills, and still more so in the consequent Detention from his Affairs in Jamaica.

(N° 1. In Sir JOHN WENTWORTH's, of 4th November 1797.)

A RETURN of Sick and Number of Maroons, from the 1st October to the 1st of November 1797.

Names.	Diseases.	Dead.
John Linton - - -	Consumptive and sick before he came to Nova Scotia.	
Bessy Sewell - - -	Scrophulous Swellings in the Neck, and Consumptive.	
Total in Hospital - - -	- - -	2.
Increase in Births since last Return - - -	- - -	5.
Total Number of Maroons - - -	- - -	

(Signed) JOHN OXLEY, Surgeon.

