

(Copy,)
(N° 29.)

N° 4.

Copy of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH,
to the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova
Scotia, 20th September 1796.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 20th September 1796.

My Lord Duke,

WITH the utmost Deference I beg Leave to acknowledge the Honour of Your Grace's Letter N° 18, dated Whitehall, 15th July 1796, signifying to me His Majesty's most gracious and beneficent Commands, for the comfortable Settlement and Support of the Maroons; also inclosing Lord Balcarras's Correspondence for my Information.

His Majesty's Pleasure for the Preservation of these People, having been also communicated in Your Grace's preceding Dispatches, and the Season admitting of no Delay, we diligently pursued necessary Means, which I had the Honour to report to Your Grace N° 28, (Duplicate herewith) which I am happy to find exactly fulfil your Grace's Instructions. I have therefore now to add, that these People are all settled in comfortable good Houses. On the 18th Instant I personally inspected them, examined every Family with particular Attention, inquired into all their Wants, explained to them His Majesty's Commands in their Favour, and the Obligations which resulted on their Part to be faithful, loyal, peaceable, sober, and industrious Subjects: Which they perfectly understand, and I am persuaded they will honestly perform, with quite as few Deviations as we should find in an equal Number of more enlightened White People, from any Part of Europe or America, and far more easily reformed. They are remarkably clean in their Persons, Houses, Cloathing, and Utensils, and very healthy. Some few have died of Disorders and Debility contracted on Board Ship; more have recovered, and still more been born.

Provisions are served to them weekly, of the best Quality and ample Quantity, with which they are unexceptionably satisfied. Being expert in cutting Wood, they are providing Winter's Fuel from their own Lands; many Families have a sufficient Quantity brought to their Doors, the rest will soon be equally prepared, which also facilitates their next Year's Planting. Proper Cloathing is daily making and issuing in such Manner as to meet the Climate, until this Article can be fully completed by the Arrival of those Necessaries which the Commissioner wrote for, on my Recommendation, by the Hussar Frigate.

At