

York. In the conferences of the peace commissioners, England contended that the frontier of Massachusetts extended no farther than Penobscot Bay: she gave it out that she wanted the territory to the eastward "for masts." But John Adams, who was a member of the board of treaty commissioners, was a Massachusetts man, and was thoroughly conversant with conditions at Penobscot. He pertinently remarked to Count Vergennes while the contention was in progress,* that "it was not masts, but Tories, that again made the difficulty," and that "Some of them claimed lands in that territory, and others hoped for grants there," not forgetting to add that "the grant of Nova Scotia by James I to Sir William Alexander, bounded it on the St. Croix." Adams was no less positive when face to face with the English commissioner, Mr. Oswald, and told him plainly that he "must lend all his thoughts to convince and persuade his court to give up" the disputed region, else "the whole negotiations would be broken off."** The unyielding character of the man from Massachusetts was confirmed by Lord Shelburne, who was constrained to report to the House of Lords that he "had but the alternative either to accept the terms proposed or to continue the war."† Mr. Secretary Knox, in the bitterness of his personal disappointment over the final collapse of his budding province, gratified his own animosities by alleging that Penobscot would never have been evacuated at all had it not been for the jealousy of Wedderburn and the ignorance of Shelburne.††

The provisional articles of peace were agreed to at the end of November, 1782. It was not until the middle of the following June that Carleton wrote to Governor Parr of Nova Scotia that two ships had been sent to Penobscot to remove such persons as should choose to go to his province.‡ Three

*November 10, 1782.

**Adams, Diary, under the dates November 10 and 18: Coll. Me. Hist. Soc., Series II, V. I, 396, 397.

†Coll. Me. Hist. Soc., Series II, V. I, 397.

††Batchelder, John Nutting, 94.

‡Report on the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., IV, 276.