

of 1781, Germain "urged upon Clinton the ministry's favorite scheme for the disposition of the throngs of Tories at New York: 'Many . . . are desirous of being settled in the country about Penobscot . . . and, as it is proposed to settle that country, and this appears to be a cheap method of disposing of these loyalists, it is wished you would encourage them to go there under the protection of the Associated Refugees, and assure them that a civil government will follow them in due time; for I hope, in the course of the summer, the admiral and you will be able to spare a force sufficient to effect an establishment at Casco Bay, and reduce that country to the King's obedience.'"*

Massachusetts, of course, wanted "the viperine nest at Penobscot" suppressed, and appealed feelingly from time to time to the French and to Washington to strike the decisive blow. In truth, her authority had been so far encroached upon by the enemy that she was no longer able to collect taxes or contributions from any place to the eastward of their stronghold. The garrison there was ever on the alert, and improved the defences of the post until it was declared by the Commander-in-chief of the Continental forces to be "the most regularly constructed and best finished of any in America." These excellent ramparts sheltered a throng of loyalists and their families, while near by a refugee settlement grew up, which by the end of the War consisted of thirty-five houses (a few of two stories), supplemented by the barest utilities in the form of three wharves and two stores.†

It remained to be seen whether this outpost of loyalism would survive the undercurrents of diplomacy during the negotiations for peace, as it had weathered the storms of war. If so, it might still become the capital of a real province of New Ireland, and by the favor of the authorities secure a population of some thousands out of hand from among the swarms of loyalists that had been gathering for years at New

*Batchelder, John Nutting, 36.

†Ibid., 84; Sabine, *Am. Loyalists*, 10; *Mass. Archives*, V. 145, 377; *Coll. Me. Hist. Soc.*, Series II, V. I. 400. Compare, however, Appendix B at the end of his paper.