

1779. He was accompanied by four hundred and forty men of the 74th Regiment under Lieutenant Campbell, and two hundred of the 82nd under Major Craig, his convoy comprising four men-of-war under Captain Andrew Barkley and the flagship *Albany* under Captain Henry Mowatt. He also took with him stores for nine hundred men, which would be the total number when the engineers should be included. Nutting, who was to be employed as overseer of carpenters in building the fort, acted as pilot. On June 13, the expedition arrived at the mouth of the Penobscot, and after reconnoitering the river for several days, the troops were disembarked on the little neck of land which had been chosen for the fort. The most advantageous part of the peninsula being wooded, some time was spent in clearing it. There was also some difficulty in landing the provisions, which had to be rolled up a steep hill. These preliminaries were not completed until July 2nd, when the work on the fort began.*

Contact with the local inhabitants disclosed the fact, as McLean wrote Clinton, that they "had been artfully led to believe that His Majesty's troops were accustomed to plunder and treat the country, where their operations led them, with the greatest inhumanity." To remove that prejudice, the leaders of the expedition issued a proclamation extending clemency to all who would take the oath of allegiance. This procedure so far restored confidence that about five hundred subscribed to the oath in the limited time allowed, although McLean wrote that "the number would have been considerably increased" if he had been able to send to "some distant settlements, the inhabitants of which requested that indulgence from the impossibility of all attending the places appointed." † The testimony of Colonel John Panton, the American superintendent of Indians in the Eastern Department, is of a confirmatory character. In a letter written at Machias, Maine, July 16, 1779, he states that most of the inhabitants at Penobscot had submitted and taken the oath of allegiance

*Report on the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., I, 440, 441, 458; Batchelder John Nutting, 78; Report on the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., II, 14.

†Ibid., I, 458.