

Since my Appointment to this Government, I have taken Care that they are equally protected and encouraged as other His Majesty's Subjects; and Slavery being almost exterminated here, Distinctions naturally painful to these People are gradually dying away. In the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment under my Command, there are many who act as Pioneers, and are good Men. A Company of those residents in and near the Town are attached to the First Battalion of Halifax Militia, an able, daring, and faithful Body of Men.

At Digby, on the Bafon of Annapolis, in my official Progress last Autumn to examine the local Circumstances of the Inhabitants and Country, I was received by the Regiment of Militia, and on my Departure attended by a Company of Black Men, well armed, of decent and orderly Deportment, and of as good able Stature and Countenance as any other Men. Some few of them were badly cloathed, owing to unavoidable Misfortunes, which might have been relieved at Eighty Guineas Expence, and every Family made quite happy. In every Part of the Province where they are scattered, I have seen them, and never fail to enquire minutely into their Circumstances. They often lament the Want of Cloathing, or the Want of a Cow, or some other particular Comfort; but I never, in any One Instance, have heard them complain of the Climate.

The Care of the Maroons is far different, and more desirable than those People have experienced. These are liberally provided with every Necessary to render the Climate particularly salutary to them. They have zealous and kindly disposed Commissaries residing with them, wholly devoted to supply their Wants, to remedy and relieve all the Difficulties that must be expected to occur in removing to a new Country; in changing the Manners of War and Hunting for those of Peace and patient Industry; and in submitting to be considered without Terror, or the Self-importance derived from it. Means of Instruction and moral and religious Improvement are provided and perseveringly applied to these, while those were long neglected in this important Administration, which is most of all others to be relied upon for their Civilization, and social as well as religious Interests. I cannot but foresee that some Difficulties and Inconveniencies may frequently arise; and that Patience, Vigilance, Perseverance, and Discretion, must be exercised in the Progress of their Settlement, and that it will continue to be a Source of increased Care and Attention to me; but as it is an Object highly interesting to so important a Part of His Majesty's Dominions as the Island of Jamaica, and more especially and above all other Considerations, it being His Majesty's most gracious Commands to pay every Care and Attention to the Comfort and Preservation of these People, I shall continue most dutifully to exert every possible Diligence and Ability