

Thing at first conspired, with the longest and severest Winter known in this Country within the Memory of Man, to hurt and depress the Prospects before them.

They now see we have our Share of warm, and a long Continuance of comfortable Weather; Preparations making, as fast as possible, for their Accommodation, by the erecting of Six large commodious Houses, and a well-planned large School House for them. These Attentions will cheer their future Hopes, and give every Reason to expect, that the Experience of this Year will excite them to labour for themselves hereafter; every Propensity to which I shall endeavour to promote, by the Assignment of Lands, Example, and Instruction.

Your Fourth Quere—"What appears to have influenced them against settling and providing for their own Comfort?" can better be answered by those who were in the Habit of being with them from their Arrival, and observing the Conduct of your Assistant towards them, to the Day that I took Possession of my Charge: I can repeat nothing but from Hearsay, and that I would not choose to do. The first Time I ever saw the Maroons, and the only Time previous to my coming here to attend you for One Week, before the 22nd July, was in your Company, sometime in April last, when Colonel Leonard was also here. The Maroons then (*I believe by a Delegate*) expressed great Dissatisfaction at the Coldness of the Winter, and also laid some Stress on the little Probability there was before them, to maintain their Families by their Labour, particularly such as had *Three or four Wives with Children by each*. These were the only *specific Reasons* assigned. All the Rest only went to general Objections to any cold Climate, and a wish to be removed to a warm one. They had not then experienced a Summer here; they had not seen Indian Corn come to Perfection; they had not an Idea the cold Weather was ever to cease; in short, it appeared to them, that no Place or Situation in the habitable Globe, was what they meant except a Return to their own Country under the Capitulation. When they were told that was never by them to be looked for, they then expressed a Wish to go to any Country of a similar Climate with the one they had left. Their Reasons, their Arguments, and Opinions, appeared to me to have been long studied. And they were all collected in a Body at the House, that they might have an Opportunity of expressing them before the then Company, for (to me) some latent Purpose. This Observation struck me, and I believe One or Two other Gentlemen at the same Time.

I also know, that One or Two Families who did work by planting Potatoes, &c. at Cold Harbour, have told me, that they had made themselves obnoxious to some of the leading People among the Maroons, and that they had been much discouraged and severely treated by Mr. Ouchterlong; and that much Discouragement was thrown on their Exertions, by knowing that Mr. Ouchterlong did not wish they should work.

The Disposition I find in the Maroons, so far as I can judge, indicates a Practability which may, and I hope will be guided to useful Labour. Many have a Turn for Trade, and practise it among themselves. Many