

in general of them at this Time, I can venture to pronounce them as healthy as any Set of People on Earth. On their First landing in July last Year, we met with many Losses, principally owing to their long Confinement on Board of the Ships, and the Badness of the Water about the Blue Bell, occasioned by the great Drought at that Time. On their Removal here, they in general recovered fast, but some far gone, dropt off, mostly Old. They continued very well until February and March, when we had much Sickness, chiefly Pleurisies and Sore Throats, but from which most of them recovered. Our Decrease in the Whole is 19, allowing for the Children born; and there is the greatest Probability in a few Weeks, that the Excess will be 10 or 12, Thirty-two Women being now big with Child. I would, with your Permission, recommend Inoculation in the End of the Year, and previous thereto, during the Summer Months, frequent Sea-bathing.

I have the honour to be,  
&c. &c. &c.

JOHN OXLEY.

*His Excellency Sir John Wentworth, Bart.*

(N<sup>o</sup> 2. In Sir JOHN WENTWORTH's, of 2d June 1797.)

To Colonel MONTAGUE JAMES, and Captain SMITH, in Behalf of  
and for the Maroons, now residing at Preston, in the Province of  
Nova Scotia.

WHEREAS from Misinformation, and Want of sufficient Experience in the Climate and Manner of Industry, and providing Support for numerous Families in this Country, and having been much terrified and alarmed with the Length and extreme Severity of the last Winter, from whence Apprehensions have arisen among you and your People, that you cannot inhabit this Country with any Comfort to your Families, and are therefore desirous that the same should be represented to His Majesty, together with your Request to be removed to some warmer Country; but that you will further represent your Wishes on this Day Twelvemonth, viz. on the 28th Day of May in the Year 1798, to be then transmitted, with all possible Dispatch, to be laid before His Majesty for His Royal Will and Pleasure thereupon, that if it should be commanded to remove the Maroons from this Country, there may be Time to accomplish such Commands before the then ensuing Winter: I will on my Part write by the Princess Royal Packet, now in this Harbour, and represent these Requests of the Maroons for His Royal Consideration: On the other Part, you and each of you, are to continue to exert your best Endeavours to cultivate and improve the Buildings and Estate whereon you now reside and occupy, and that you will faithfully obey and execute my Orders and Directions in all Things.

(Signed) J. WENTWORTH.

Preston, Nova Scotia,  
28th May 1797.