

colour. This is not the opinion that was held at the time, as it was then supposed that the African Company had been exerting influence to secure the removal of the Maroons from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone. An examination of the correspondence shows that this belief was ill-founded. Early in 1799 the Secretary of State reopened negotiations with the African Company, which did not respond with warmth; in fact, showed a great unwillingness to undertake the charge of these people. In May Wentworth wrote that he had heard of the negotiations, but his letter of the 23rd was very cautious. On the 24th, the following day, he gave the proposal for the removal of his approval, and added, showing the changed feeling towards them after nearly three years' residence in the province, that the inhabitants had great satisfaction at their being taken away. Difficulties, however, continued to be raised by the African Company to their reception, owing to the danger apprehended from their being settled on the mainland, and the necessity of placing them on an island from which an exit would not be easy. Finally they recommended the acquisition of the island of Bulam, at a sufficient distance from Freetown, which would not only accommodate them but the Caribs—an incidental evidence of the intention to remove that body of people also from the West Indies, where they had played the same part in St. Vincent as the Maroons had done in Jamaica. Obstacles to their speedy shipment arose, too, in Nova Scotia, where transports could not be obtained, although in February, 1800, they were ready to embark at an hour's notice. When this was overcome, the agent for the African Company protested against their sailing before August, as otherwise they would arrive in the rainy season. On the 6th of August Wentworth reported that they had embarked and were ready to sail, but before leaving they made an offer to contract for the delivery of 500 slaves, presumably to be caught after their arrival at Freetown—not a good augury of their future behaviour. They arrived in Sierra Leone on the 1st of October, 1800, assisted to quell an insurrection among the negroes previously sent from Nova Scotia, three of whom were executed, several banished, and some of the ring-leaders escaped among the natives. The conduct of the Maroons in Africa was on the whole satisfactory, but they still retained a longing to return to Jamaica, so that little cultivation was done nor is it likely much would have been done in any case, although they are reported to have become good mechanics and labourers. What became of them subsequently it is beyond the scope of this paper to trace.