

isolation at this rather remote point on the coast of the North Sea did not prevent his visiting London occasionally, or keeping himself in the recollection and esteem of his patron of the Colonial Office. So it came about that he was called into consultation concerning the proposed expedition to the Maine coast. As Mr. Nutting had invested some years before in shore lots in what is now Castine across Penobscot Bay, and up the Bagaduce River, he must have been aware of the natural strength and well recognized strategic advantages of that locality. When, therefore, he suggested Penobscot as the best site for the new post, his quality of "uncommon Loyalty," for which he had received deserved commendation in Halifax, was not being sacrificed to his self-interest, although the happy blend of the two must have pleased him in no small degree. His suggestion was adopted by the King's ministers, and Nutting was ordered to London to carry Germain's despatches to Clinton at New York, and accordingly set sail early in September, 1778. A fortnight out, his vessel, the government mail packet *Harriet*, was overtaken by an American privateer, the *Vengeance*, and Nutting, rid of his despatches, which he sunk in the sea, but wounded in four places, as he later testified, was taken prisoner with the other people on his ship. In less than two months, however, the King's messenger was again in London, having had the good fortune to be exchanged.*

Undaunted, Mr. Nutting undertook a second voyage in January of the next year, and after fourteen weeks on the ocean was able to hand detailed instructions to Clinton.† In compliance with these orders, the latter directed Brigadier General McLean at Halifax to carry into effect the plan of fortifying a post on Penobscot River, and instructed him to prepare materials for a respectable work capable of accommodating three hundred or four hundred men. McLean was unable to comply fully with Clinton's instructions concerning the troops to be taken, but he made such substitutions as were necessary, and set out on the expedition early in June,

*Batchelder, John Nutting, 71-77.

†*Ibid.*, 77, 78.