

not injurious to their Health, is evident from their present Situation, none being (as I understand) ill, but such as brought their Disorders with them. The Deaths that have happened in this Province amongst the Maroons, has been owing to a long Passage; the Number of Births lately, has nearly made the Number equal, and in a few Weeks will probably exceed the Number embarked at Jamaica. These are Circumstances, Sir, that may be better known to you than myself; but among so many People in their native Climate, old and young, I never saw, in any Part of the World, more Health and less Disease.

Your Third Quere I can answer from Experience, "*that they will work if encouraged.*" A Proof is, that I have, on Application, given Passes to a great many who have engaged themselves to labour for several Gentlemen at Halifax, by the Week, and by the Month. Many are employed about the Country, and get high Wages for clearing Land, making Hay, driving Carts, and various other Labours. I find no Difficulty to get as many Maroons to labour as I want, at very low Wages, to make Bricks, dig Cellars, carry Stones, hoe Potatoes, make Hay, or do any Thing I direct them to do. The Industry of the Women, Boys, and Girls, in gathering Strawberries and Raspberries, has been unremitting. They carry them to Halifax, with a Certainty of selling them at a good Price there, by making Money to supply themselves with many Comforts, not provided for by the Establishment. Many of the Men are anxious to have their Portion of Land laid out for them, that they may know *their own Labour* will be for their *own* future Benefit; and have themselves adopted an Idea, that Negro Yams (their favourite Food) will grow as it does in their Settlements in Jamaica, among their early Indian Corn; a Hint I mean to improve; and to forward which, his Excellency Sir John Wentworth has sent to Jamaica for Half a Ton of those Yams, to get into the Seed and try the Experiment. The First Object in my View, after my coming on the 22d July, was, by the Governor's Desire and Approbation, to give Instructions to a Surveyor, for the Purpose of laying out Lots for the Maroons, as far as the Land purchased was good, assigning the worst and least cultivatable for common Pasture, to which Purpose it is very competent. But the Rains have been so incessant ever since, that I cannot carry this Measure into Effect, may be for some Days. Some Families that have planted Potatoes about their Houses, have kept them in good Order, and almost all the Families have tolerable Cabbages growing, and express Sorrow that they had not this Spring made their Gardens more extensive, seeing the great Profit made by their Productions at Halifax Market, and they not able to avail themselves of it, from their Want of timely Exertion. The Cause of their not setting out with a good Inclination to work, was not certainly from Incapability on their Part; but most undoubtedly from some Influence, which taught them to expect Advantages from such Backwardness, to promote either their own general Views, or perhaps the particular ones of the most *desiging* among them. The Arrival of the Maroons in this Country, after a long Voyage, sickly, driven from the Place of their Nativity; no Preparation for their immediate Reception; sudden Purchases obliged to be made to procure Houses habitable for them; *every Thing*