

I first arrived at Quebec; this account I had from Mr. Ross himself, who farther added, that the governor gave the Indians presents, to encourage them to proceed, in that kind of work, which is a scandal to any civilized nation, and what many pagans would abhor! Here also, I saw one Mr. Johnson, who was taken in a time of peace, with his wife, and three small children (his wife was big with child of a fourth, and delivered on the road to Canada, which she called Captive) all which had been prisoners between three and four years: several young men, and his wife's sister, were likewise taken captive with them, and made slaves.

Our cartel being ready, I obtained liberty to go to England in her; we set sail the 23d of July, 1757, in the morning, and discharged our pilot about four o'clock in the afternoon; after which, we neither cast anchor or lead, till we got clear of the great river St. Lawrence, from which, I conclude, the navigation is much safer than the French have reported; in twenty-eight days we arrived at Plymouth; which occasioned great joy, for we were ragged, lousy, sick, and in a manner, starved; and many of the prisoners, who in all were about three hundred in number, were sick of the small-pox. My son and self, having each a blanket coat (which we bought in Canada to keep us warm) and now expecting relief, gave them to two poor sick men, almost naked! but as we were not allowed to go on shore, but removed to a king's ship, and sent to Portsmouth, where we were still confined on board, near two weeks, and then removed to the Mermaid, to be sent to Boston; we now repented our well meant, though rash charity, in giving our coats away, as we were not to get any more, all application to the captain for any kind of covering being in vain; our joy was turned into sorrow, at the prospect of coming on a cold coast, in the beginning of winter, almost naked, which was not a little increased, by a near view of our *mother country*, the soil and comforts of which, we were not suffered to touch or taste.*

* On board the Mermaid man of war, being in a distressed condition, and hearing little from the mouths of many of my countrymen, but oaths and curses (which much increased my affliction) and find-