

This development may have had something to do with Nutting's departure for England in the spring of 1780 by the particular advice and recommendation of General McLean. At any rate, soon after his arrival in London, Nutting announced that he had laid a plan before Lord George Germain which, if put into execution, would prove "of the greatest Utility to Government." The concerns of the prospective province were certainly receiving a great deal of attention at this time among the loyalists at Penobscot, for, in May of the year named above they sent Dr. Caleff to England to do what he could toward getting the British authorities to fix upon the River Penobscot as the dividing line between themselves and the United States.\*

While the object of Mr. Nutting's journey is less clear by reason of the lack of documentary proofs, the fact that he now crossed the ocean at what was virtually the request of McLean, to whom had been entrusted the first step towards erecting a loyalist province in eastern Maine, suggests strongly that the present mission of the Overseer of Works was in connection with the carrying into effect of the second and principal part of the programme, namely, the establishment of the province itself. It was certainly more than a mere coincidence that the whole New Ireland scheme received a fresh impetus soon after Nutting's arrival in London. On August 7, 1780, Germain wrote to Knox expressing the hope that New Ireland still employed his thoughts, that he was more and more inclined to prefer Oliver (the ex-chief justice of Massachusetts Bay) for the governorship, and that he wished they might "prepare some plan for the consideration of the Cabinet." No sooner said than done, the plan was produced with astonishing promptness. Its form was that of a constitution for the new province, concerning which Germain wrote on August 11th: "*The King approves the plan . . . likes Oliver for Governor, so it may be offered him. He approves Leonard for Chief Justice.*"†

\*Batchelder, John Nutting, 82, 86; Report on the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., II, 118, 420; III, 229; Ganong, Evol. of the Boundaries of N. B., 260; Raymond, Winslow Papers, 256.

†Batchelder, John Nutting, 86, 87.