

(Copy
N^o 33.)N^o 7.

Copy of a LETTER (N^o 33) from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH to the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 29th October 1796.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 29th October 1796.

My Lord Duke,

I BEG Leave most respectfully to acknowledge the Honour of your Grace's Letter, N^o 19, which will be partly obeyed in my Letters N^{os} 28, 29, 30, and 31.

It is incumbent on me to observe, that I am still fully persuaded that the Climate of this Country will be found healthy and comfortable to the Maroons, if they are well fed, comfortably lodged and cloathed, and proper Attention exercised toward their gradual Instruction in the Habits of Industry, and prudent Use of their Benefits; of all which they are perfectly capable.

The Case of the Negroes removed to Nova Scotia in the Year 1783 was entirely different from that of the Maroons: Nevertheless, upon Examination it will be found, that the Result incontrovertibly justifies my Expectations with respect to the Climate upon the Maroons.

The Negroes brought toward Autumn into this Province from New York, and other more Southern Climates, were Slaves suddenly emancipated from Masters, whose essential Interest it was to suppress and extinguish every Idea of providing for themselves, or having any Property. With these Habits they joined the Army in it's several Departments, where Obedience and provided Subsistence were still united—here they gathered more Dissoluteness than oeconomic Discretion. At the general Removal of British Subjects in 1783 to Nova Scotia, the Justice of the British Government refusing to leave these poor People to the resentful and probable severe Treatment of those into whose unlimited Power they would revert if they remained in the United States, they were conveyed hither. At the same Time an Influx of many Thousands of His Majesty's loyal Subjects also arrived; all were to be located, and Provision made for their Settlement. The approaching Winter excited Apprehensions, and universal Competition to provide Places and Lodgments. The Government here not having had much Experience in settling Inhabitants in a new Country, which requires that Sort of local Knowledge deriveable from Experience only, were embarrassed in the Midst of their Endeavours