

N<sup>o</sup> 3.

Copy of a LETTER (N<sup>o</sup> 45.) from Sir John WENTWORTH to the Duke of Portland; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2d June 1797.

(Two Inclosures.)

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2d June 1797.

MY LORD DUKE,

IN a Meeting I had with the Maroons, on the 28th May, they generally expressed to me their Apprehensions of the Severity they had experienced of this Climate, the last Winter and Spring; which has indeed been much longer and more rigorous than has been known since the Settlement of Halifax in the Year 1749. Notwithstanding which, they have suffered less Sickness than the White Inhabitants of the Province, in Proportion to their respective Numbers; and do, at this Day, exhibit great Health and Strength, beyond any other People, as there are now only One dangerous, and One invalid Case, among Five hundred and Thirty-two Persons, and the former an old Complaint, deemed incurable in Jamaica; which is more fully explained in the Letter, herewith inclosed, from Dr. Oxley, Surgeon of His Majesty's late 96th Regiment, who had the Care of them in Jamaica and on their Passage to this Place, and at my Request still continues to live with them as their Physician, being a prudent well-disposed Man, eminent in his Profession, kindly attached to these People, and better acquainted with their Constitutions, Habits, and Dispositions, than any other Man; and therefore is and can be peculiarly useful to them: Which he consents to pursue, with such Duty and Zeal towards His Majesty's Service, that I humbly hope it will recommend him to your Grace's favourable Consideration, in his Solicitation to be confirmed in the Rank he held in the late 96th Regiment.

Impressed with Fears of this Climate, and that Subsistence must hereafter be obtained by Labour, and encouraged with Expectations, evidently suggested to them, that they would be removed into some other Country, where their Valour would make them happy and great, if they would say they were dissatisfied here and wished to be removed into a warm Country; they very naturally have expressed such Sentiments to me, and I promised to transmit their Request, as in the inclosed Paper N<sup>o</sup> 2, for His Majesty's Pleasure thereupon. As I am perfectly satisfied that these People have suffered no real Detriment from the Climate; that they are, and will be, as comfortable, and in due Time as fully satisfied as they ever can or will be in any Country where War, Hunting, and uncultivated Modes of living is not their whole Object; and that they would not now have made any Request, had it not been for injudicious Suggestions; I convinced them of the Wisdom of trying another Year, when their Wishes might be more reasonable and merit more Consideration. This was unanimously approved; and I trust by that Time will produce the best Effect.

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