

of the frigates of the British fleet that entered Penobscot Bay to lay siege to Bagaduce. Taking passage on this vessel for New York after the success of the British expedition, he had the satisfaction of being borne to his destination by the ship that carried the good tidings to Clinton. It may be added that Mr. Goldthwait's stay in New York City lasted only from the early part of September to December 23, when he took his departure to England, there to remain during the rest of his life.\*

The project of planting a British force on the coast of Maine had long been cherished by William Knox, a Georgia loyalist, who was under-secretary in the Colonial Office in London. Knox argued that it would serve to distract the attention of the Americans from operations in other quarters, that as a military and naval base it would protect the country to the east from attacks by land and sea, and last, but not least, that it would form the centre and bulwark for a new province for the friends of government, who were leaving the Colonies in ever increasing numbers, and were already flooding the home authorities with insistent claims for compensation.† Lord Germain, Knox's superior officer, became convinced of the advantage of the project for the reasons stated in his letter to General Clinton.‡ He afterwards wrote to Governor Haldimand at Quebec, April 16, 1779, that if the Kennebec, or even the Penobscot, were secured, it would keep open direct communication between the Canadian capital and New York at all seasons, and so do away with the tediousness and delays in correspondence by way of Halifax. However, this explanation did not satisfy Haldimand, who still doubted the efficacy of the measure.||

Meanwhile, Knox was anticipating with evident zest the success of an expedition yet to move against the coast of Maine by arranging the details of the province that was

\*Mc. Hist. Magazine, X, 95, 96.

†Batchelder, John Nutting, 'Reprint from the Proceedings of the Cambridge Hist. Soc.' 74, 72.

‡See Appendix A at the end of this paper, W. O. R.

||Can. Arch., 1885, 302, 327.