

No. 2.

Extract of a LETTER from the Duke of PORTLAND to Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Bart. dated June 1797.

I HAVE attentively considered the several Circumstances you have stated relative to the Maroons, and can easily conceive that the singular Length and Severity of the late Winter, joined to the delusive Hopes, very improperly held out to them, of serving as a Corps at the Cape of Good Hope, instead of preparing them for a Mode of Life so different in all its Functions from that to which they have been accustomed, must have made an Impression on their Minds extremely unfavourable to the Plan laid down of their becoming gradually domesticated in the Settlement allotted to them. The first Thing therefore to be done, is to set them right in Regard to the strange and irregular Notions which have been insinuated amongst them, of serving at the Cape, and distinctly and unequivocally to explain to them the Conduct they must pursue, and the Duties they are on their Parts to perform within the Colony, to render His Majesty's great Benevolence to them, effectual to the Ends and Purposes for which it is intended.

With respect to the Expence which may be incurred on their Account until such Time as they are able to provide for themselves (which you will endeavour of Course to effect in the least possible Space of Time) the Amount of it must be defrayed by the Island of Jamaica, conformably to the Intention, originally expressed by its Legislature at the Time the Maroons were sent to Nova Scotia: Should the Commissary therefore, who is now resident within your Province for the Purpose of defraying those Expences, and attending to the Management of the Maroons, be withdrawn, you are to take especial Care that, previous to his Departure, a proper Arrangement be made for defraying the Expences of the Maroons; as no Part of the Charge on their Account, can possibly be borne by this Country.