

of the protection which they would have afforded to the British traders against the Indian Tribes, the measure would be highly impolitic. It would certainly be more advantageous to erect, on the opposite side of the river, such small places of defence as may be necessary to this purpose, and such other conveniencies as may be requisite for carrying on the fur trade, than to entail upon ourselves an endless contest with America.

It has been asserted, that by not having the possession of Penobscot, the nation is deprived of a territory which might be eminently useful in supplying large masts for the navy. This, however, is by no means the truth of the case; for the country is already exhausted of the timber which could be serviceable for that purpose. At present, there is not a tree left which is capable of being converted into a mast of any considerable size. If the growing timber of that district should hereafter be able