

part of the West Indies, where they would again become Slaves ; the consequence was, that very few of them would embark, and here they remain to this day, a burden on the Community at large. It is hardly known how these poor creatures manage to subsist, especially at Preston, where the Land is much worse than at the other Settlement : in the Summer you may see them by dozens in Halifax, having come eight or ten miles to sell a few berries, the produce of the woods, or Tubs and Brooms of their own manufacture, on which traffic they mostly depend; their distress is, however, so well known here, that charity is administered to them with an open hand, otherwise their lot would be most deplorable indeed. If your time would admit, I would advise you to visit these Settlements ; three of them are within a day's ride of Halifax : take a list of the original Settlers ; enumerate those that remain ; examine the Soil, and draw your own conclusions. If you are not disposed for ocular proof, I hardly know where to refer you : these spots are little visited ; our principal and best informed Natives are not much addicted to Travel, and seldom leave the "High" for the "Bye" Way. I believe you must apply to the Disciples of old Isaac Walton, and they are mostly among the Officers of the Garrison, for if our old Patricians have but a slight spice of the "Viator" in them, they have still less of the "Piscator." Should these Settlements not be found in a prosperous state, after more than ten years trial, you will naturally seek for the cause. Can it be that no

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