

No. I.

Extract of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Bart.
to the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova-Scotia,
7th May 1797.

MR. QUARRELL, Commissary for settling the Maroons in this Province, has communicated to me a Letter he has received from Earl Balcarres, accompanied by a Copy of a Resolution of the House of Assembly of Jamaica, providing for the Expence of this Measure until July next, and limiting the subsequent to Ten Pounds Sterling per Head; that is to say, Men, Women, and Children; which will be very insufficient for the Purpose. It is my Duty humbly to represent to your Grace, that a larger Sum will be indispensably necessary for their Aid and Support, from July 1797 to July 1798; and to entreat your Grace's Instructions to me hereupon.

Mr. Quarrell intends proceeding to England on his own private Affairs in August next. He is fully sensible, that the Sum proposed by the House of Assembly in Jamaica, is greatly inadequate; nor will it be possible for them to remain in this Province without a more ample and longer continued Support, which must be dispensed to their various Cases and Wants, with an Ability and Knowledge derived from Experience; the Want of which will delay the good Effects intended, although resulting from an upright Exercise of the best Intentions, and Zeal in their Interests. They have not yet overcome the Apprehensions caused by the extreme, rigorous, and unusually long Winter, and backward Spring, which has only this Day given any pleasant Warmth; and both together have been near Three Months longer than has been known since the Settlement of Halifax in the Year 1749. Added to this, they unfortunately got an Idea among them of being embodied as Soldiers for the Cape of Good Hope, and India, with their Women and Children, where they say, "Give us Arms and Ammunition, and put us on Shore, we will make Room for ourselves;" that is, they would murder and plunder the Inhabitants, if they could only live in the Woods all the Year round. These Impressions, for the present, a little unhinge their good Dispositions to Labour, but I trust will subside by Degrees. They still attend public Worship on Sundays; and, Twice a Week, they go to the Clergyman for Explanations and Instructions on the Service of the preceding Sunday; and the Children constantly at School, learning to read and write with Decency and Diligence. I am therefore induced to entreat your Grace's Favour toward the Support of the Missionary or Chaplain, and Schoolmaster, amounting in the Whole to Two hundred and Forty Pounds Sterling per Annum. These Gentlemen have faithfully and usefully performed their Duty, and continue resident therein, notwithstanding the Apprehensions naturally excited by such a People.