

of the recent conduct of the inhabitants. In a letter to Clinton, he denounced them as rebels who took an oath to the King one day and another to the Congress the next, and asserted that all had "assisted the rebels in everything they could during the siege."* It would seem, however, that the denunciation of Commodore Collier was too sweeping in its character. It could scarcely have been the case that those who placed themselves under the protection of the British post, and whose need of supplies was causing a shortage of provisions, had been guilty of the sort of double dealing charged against all the inhabitants by the prejudiced Commodore.† Moreover, Colonel Thomas Goldthwait, who had settled a large number of people in the Penobscot region, wrote to Clinton, October 2, 1779, urging the continued importance of the post to the Crown. "If the present arrangement of his Majesty's troops won't permit of a reinforcement there, at this time," says the refugee's letter, "I myself will undertake to raise a Battalion out of the militia of that country, which notwithstanding their seeming delinquency in their late unhappy situation, I'll pledge myself for it, that they will make as good subjects as any the King has got. 'Twas I, principally, y^t settled them in that country; I commanded them, & I fully know their principles, & have estate enough to carry into execution what I propose."‡

Even while the loyalty of these people was being thus favorably or unfavorably commented upon, many friends of government were removing to this haven of refuge. McLean, who returned to Halifax at the close of November, 1779, wrote to Clinton from that place that a considerable number of inhabitants had taken refuge on the peninsula, that their distressed situation rendered it necessary that they be supplied with provisions from the King's stores, and that he proposed sending a further supply by the *Albany* to complete their stock to the end of May.|| Besides the people who

*Report of the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., II, 17.

†Ibid., 66.

‡Report on the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., II, 20, 45.

||Report on the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., II, 66.