

No. 13.

SAINT JOHN'S RIVER, March 6th, 1769.*

GENTLEMEN,

We have rec'd your favor of the 21st of Jan'y by the Polly which had a long passage of 23 or 24 days. She might have sailed some days ago if it had not been for a deep snow that fell while the Furs was coming down the river, so deep that it was with difficulty the horse was got in.

We have sent all the Furs and everything received except about 60 lb. Castor and a quantity of Mucsquash skins that could not be brought down. There is, as has been usual, less furs than we expected and consequently more goods on hand as we have credited little or nothing this winter, as we shall not for the future, finding upon examining our accounts that trusting seemingly but little soon amounts to a large sum. We have by the nearest calculation we can make about £1500 L. M: due to us from the English and Indians — about half that sum from each, which will be hard to collect tho' we hope not much of it finally lost. Shall call on every one to pay as much as in their power to do. The English are more distressed for provisions than they have been since their settlement on this river. Mr. Shorne has had but little of us and we have had no opportunity to obtain a draught for it. Mr. Livingston's account we sent with the order that was returned; as he has it, it will be needless to send another: however have enclosed a letter and order which must convince him that not only the sum drawn for has been advanced him, but as much more to his settlers, which he has the benefit of, as without it all the disbursements would have been lost, at least part of them.

We imagine that the loss of Mr. Anderson's† vessel will cause more trade to come to us than we should have had if she had gone safe; but as we have more goods on hand than we expected to have, have made only a small addition to our memo: and some alteration. The corn that came in the schooner is totally spoiled for any sale, and we shall suffer greatly for want of that article except we have a 100 or more bushels pr return of the schooner.

Abbot and Middleton will both do about one man's work, and Stevens tho' an industrious peaceable lad had not experience to make any dispatch at coopering. We think it will be of more advantage to keep the coopers mostly at making Hogsheads as they will make as

* This letter is endorsed as received March 23, 1769, by Hazen & Jarvis.

† John Anderson who had a trading post just above the Nashwaak, opposite Fredericton.

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