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Extracts and Copies of LETTERS from  
Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Lieutenant Go-  
vernor of *Nova Scotia*, to his Grace the  
DUKE of PORTLAND ; respecting the  
Settlement of the MAROONS in that  
Province.

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*Ordered to be printed 10th April 1797.*

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N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Extract of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, to the Duke of  
PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 23d July  
1796.

**Y**ESTERDAY Mr. Quarrell arrived in the Dover Transport; the other  
Transport arrived the 21st Instant, with all the Maroons in good  
Health, and as I am informed very quiet and orderly. It is agreed that  
these People remain on Board the Transports in this Harbour, until  
His Majesty's Pleasure is communicated respecting them.

(Copy)  
(N<sup>o</sup> 27.)

N<sup>o</sup> 2.

Copy of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH to  
the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
25th July 1796.

Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
25th July 1796.

My Lord Duke,

**I**BEG Leave, with great Deference, to represent that this Afternoon an  
Arrangement has been concerted with His Royal Highness Prince  
Edward, to relieve the Maroons from their Confinement on Board Ship,  
by employing them voluntarily, as Labourers on the Fortifications  
erecting here, at Nine Pence per Diem; Provisions, Lodging, and  
Cloathing being found them. The proposed Pay is adequate, and the  
Whole will be comfortable to them, while a Saving will be made in  
Transport Hire and Labour.—Probably about One hundred and Fifty  
Men

Men will engage, and thereby release some of the Inhabitants to assist in the Harvests and other Civil Occupations, which are now much distressed for Want of Hands.

The greatest Care will be taken to preserve Peace and good Order among these People; who seem perfectly well disposed, inasmuch that there is not any Cause to apprehend the least Inconvenience, but on the contrary, that very salutary Effects will be derived from this Measure, which, His Royal Highness being now much engaged, desires me to represent; and that he will particularly report to your Grace by the Hussar Frigate, expected to sail from hence with a Convoy in less than Three Weeks.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WENTWORTH.

His Grace  
the Duke of PORTLAND.

N<sup>o</sup> 3.

Extract of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH to  
the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
13th August 1796.

THE Maroons are now lodged about Two Miles from this Town, with tolerable Convenience to themselves—separate from the Inhabitants, and well supplied with Provisions and such Cloathing as is most immediately necessary, and to be procured here.—This is done by my Advice, and under my daily Inspection, by William Dawes Quarrell, and Alexander Ochterlony, Esquires, who came with them as Principal and Deputy Commissary appointed by Lord Balcarres, and supplied with a Credit of Twenty-five Thousand Pounds, Jamaica Currency, by that Government, for the Uses of these Maroons; which is applied accordingly as Occasion demands. These Gentlemen are exceedingly interested in Behalf of the Maroons; judicious, discreet, prudent, and attentive to every Thing that may promote their Welfare. By my Advice and Information they purchased several Estates within Five Miles of this Town, whereon there are Houses and Lands cleared for Cultivation; which, with Eight or Ten more which we can erect immediately, will commodiously and warmly lodge them for the ensuing Winter, and before any cold Weather can trouble them.—These Tracts are contiguous, and will comprize upward of Three Thousand Acres, and with the Buildings and Repairs necessary, will cost about Three Thousand

and Pounds Sterling. As it abounds with Wood, both for Fuel and Timber, a Saving will occur in those, and in House Rent, of more than Two Thousand Pounds Sterling, before May next; and an exorbitant Advance in the Price of Fuel prevented in the Town, should their Residence here require a Supply. To-morrow I have recommended to begin removing some Families on to their respective Habitations, and intend to have the Whole of them settled by Michaelmas; by which Means they will be prepared to cultivate their Lands to effect the next Year. This Estate bounds on One End upon a pleasant fishing Harbour, where Fish may be easily caught every Day in the Year, of the best Kinds, and of Seventeen different Sorts.

These People express great Delight in the Country, and the prospect of being settled in it. They are perfectly quiet, orderly, and peaceable, and I have not a Doubt but that they will be more happy than ever they were in Jamaica; they declare to me daily, that they are sure all their Sorrows and Misfortunes are at an End.

From long Experience in New England, where the Winter is more severe than in Nova Scotia, I am satisfied there need not be any Apprehensions entertained of this Climate injuring them. If they are well fed, warmly clothed, and comfortably lodged, I have always found Negroes directly from the hottest Coasts of Africa, have grown strong and lusty in the Winter, and that they did not suffer by it. I have had many Instances of this Fact, enough to establish it, and to leave me not a Fear of Success in this Case, if the Articles I have recommended to be imported from England for their Use, can be had here in November next.

( Copy, )  
( N° 29. )

N° 4.

Copy of a LETTER from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH,  
to the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova  
Scotia, 20th September 1796.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 20th September 1796.

My Lord Duke,

**W**ITH the utmost Deference I beg Leave to acknowledge the Honour of Your Grace's Letter N° 18, dated Whitehall, 15th July 1796, signifying to me His Majesty's most gracious and beneficent Commands, for the comfortable Settlement and Support of the Maroons; also inclosing Lord Balcarres's Correspondence for my Information.

His Majesty's Pleasure for the Preservation of these People, having been also communicated in Your Grace's preceding Dispatches, and the Season admitting of no Delay, we diligently pursued necessary Means, which I had the Honour to report to Your Grace N° 28, (Duplicate herewith) which I am happy to find exactly fulfil your Grace's Instructions. I have therefore now to add, that these People are all settled in comfortable good Houses. On the 18th Instant I personally inspected them, examined every Family with particular Attention, inquired into all their Wants, explained to them His Majesty's Commands in their Favour, and the Obligations which resulted on their Part to be faithful, loyal, peaceable, sober, and industrious Subjects: Which they perfectly understand, and I am persuaded they will honestly perform, with quite as few Deviations as we should find in an equal Number of more enlightened White People, from any Part of Europe or America, and far more easily reformed. They are remarkably clean in their Persons, Houses, Cloathing, and Utensils, and very healthy. Some few have died of Disorders and Debility contracted on Board Ship; more have recovered, and still more been born.

Provisions are served to them weekly, of the best Quality and ample Quantity, with which they are unexceptionably satisfied. Being expert in cutting Wood, they are providing Winter's Fuel from their own Lands; many Families have a sufficient Quantity brought to their Doors, the rest will soon be equally prepared, which also facilitates their next Year's Planting. Proper Cloathing is daily making and issuing in such Manner as to meet the Climate, until this Article can be fully completed by the Arrival of those Necessaries which the Commissioner wrote for, on my Recommendation, by the Hussar Frigate.

At

At the Meeting on the 18th Instant some Arrangements were directed for their internal good Order and peaceable Demeanour—the declared, well-understood, and entirely acceptable Basis of which is, Gratitude to the King for Benefits and Protection extended to them, and Obedience to the Laws;—modifying these Regulations so as to lead them gradually into the general Operation of the Laws of the Province. The Principles of these Rules are, that all small Offences are to be openly tried before Mr. Quarrell and Mr. Ochterlony, in Presence of at least Three Maroon Captains; and if fully proved, the Offender to be delivered over to them, informing them what would be the Sentence of the Law if the Case arose between White Men, explaining the Good that they might expect from adopting the same.—As their former Habits led to severe Punishments, I have directed that those of any cruel Proportion should be suspended, until the Case was reported to me by the Commissioners and the Captains who were at the Trial. In my Intercourse with them on this Subject, they earnestly expressed their Wishes to be instructed in our Religion, and to have their Children taught to read and write; from whence the happiest Consequences may be expected. Mr. Quarrell and Mr. Ochterlony fully coincide with me; and I have appointed the Reverend Benjamin Gerrish Gray, who is to be ordained next Sunday for a Country Parish, which, at my Request to the Bishop of Nova Scotia, I prevail on him to exchange. This Gentleman had a good Education in England, is amiable and conciliating in his Manners, discreet, patient, and ingenious, and peculiarly accomplished for this very laborious and difficult Duty. The Shell of a large House nearly central in the Settlement, is ordered to be made convenient for a Chapel; and the Second Sunday in October I shall open the Church by attending Divine Service therein.

In the Correspondence inclosed to me, I find some few Maroons remarked for less favourable Consideration.—This might have been expedient had they remained in Jamaica, but would not be adviseable here. I have conversed with these, and others the best informed and most sensible among them, and cannot discern any Malice or Revenge in their Sentiments; that they in Fact regretted the War, and thought themselves pursuing Self-preservation only. In these Communications, they mention the Spanish Dogs as Objects of Terror, from the wonderful Representations of them; but that they had never suffered by or even seen them. Indeed, I rather think they are now ashamed at having been frightened by them, and that they would now be esteemed a ridiculous Scarecrow.

The Government of Jamaica having granted a liberal Sum for the Removal, and to commence the Settlement of the Maroons, and appointed Mr. Quarrell, Commissary, and Mr. Ochterlony Assistant Commissary, to superintend these benevolent Intentions, it appeared to me expedient



expedient that the Expenditure should be transacted by them, and the Monies requisite also drawn for by them on the Agent of the Island, whereto they were authorized, and a proper Credit, as I understand, lodged with Messrs. Millegan and Mitchell in London.—This Mode appears to embrace the Objects of your Grace's Instruction on that Point; and therefore will be continued until your Grace may be pleased to direct me otherwise, or these Funds are expended. In such Necessity, due Care shall be had in drawing conformable to those Directions. Probably this may not soon happen, as I believe the Government of Jamaica are fully and generously disposed to render the Maroons happy in any other Country. Among other Reasons for this Opinion, is the judicious Choice of Mr. Quarrell and Mr. Ochterlony, to accompany and superintend the Interests of these poor People. I cannot do adequate Justice to the affectionate Zeal, unwearied Assiduity, great Judgment, and perfect Disinterestedness, which these Gentlemen invariably exert, under my immediate and hourly Observation, to effect the excellent Intentions of their Constituents; insomuch that I have not a Doubt the truly humane Wishes of His Majesty's Government herein will be fully accomplished; and that whatever Causes may have removed them into this Province, their increased Happiness will surely be the Effect. They daily become more sensible of it, and express to me no other Anxiety than their Fears to be removed. Nothing would create such Distress as to carry them to Sierra Leone; nor could they be prevailed on, by any Persuasions, to return to Jamaica.

I humbly confide in your Grace's great Goodness to excuse so long a Detail, which arises from a dutiful Solicitude to fulfil the Royal Commands, in a Case entirely new, and comprehending all the Interests of such a numerous Body of People; which will be best promoted by informing your Grace of their precise and actual Situation.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

J. WENTWORTH.

His Grace  
The DUKE of PORTLAND.

N° 5.

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Extract of a LETTER from Lieutenant Governor  
Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Baronet, to his Grace the  
Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 24th  
September 1796.

**T**HE Maroons are much attached—are impressed with Hatred to the French.—Although they may hence be safely trusted, yet their Wives and Children, to whom they are extremely attached, being Pledges for their Fidelity, they will be advantageously employed more immediately under my own Inspection, and with a Company of Riflemen, who are equal to either Maroons or Indians in the Woods and difficult rocky Country.

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N° 6.

Extract of a LETTER from Lieutenant Governor  
Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Baronet, to his Grace the  
Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
8th October 1796.

**T**HE Maroons are daily progressing in Preparations for the Winter. Their Conduct still continues to be much better than could be expected; with very little Exception, it is quite meritorious. They will be decidedly good Men against any Enemy. I am persuaded they are attached to me; and that they are fully convinced, not only their Comfort, but also their future Views and Military Credit, depend on their Obedience and Affection to His Majesty's Government.

(Copy  
N<sup>o</sup> 33.)N<sup>o</sup> 7.

Copy of a LETTER (N<sup>o</sup> 33) from Sir JOHN WENTWORTH to the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 29th October 1796.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 29th October 1796.

My Lord Duke,

I BEG Leave most respectfully to acknowledge the Honour of your Grace's Letter, N<sup>o</sup> 19, which will be partly obeyed in my Letters N<sup>os</sup> 28, 29, 30, and 31.

It is incumbent on me to observe, that I am still fully persuaded that the Climate of this Country will be found healthy and comfortable to the Maroons, if they are well fed, comfortably lodged and cloathed, and proper Attention exercised toward their gradual Instruction in the Habits of Industry, and prudent Use of their Benefits; of all which they are perfectly capable.

The Case of the Negroes removed to Nova Scotia in the Year 1783 was entirely different from that of the Maroons: Nevertheless, upon Examination it will be found, that the Result incontrovertibly justifies my Expectations with respect to the Climate upon the Maroons.

The Negroes brought toward Autumn into this Province from New York, and other more Southern Climates, were Slaves suddenly emancipated from Masters, whose essential Interest it was to suppress and extinguish every Idea of providing for themselves, or having any Property. With these Habits they joined the Army in it's several Departments, where Obedience and provided Subsistence were still united—here they gathered more Dissoluteness than oeconomical Discretion. At the general Removal of British Subjects in 1783 to Nova Scotia, the Justice of the British Government refusing to leave these poor People to the resentful and probable severe Treatment of those into whose unlimited Power they would revert if they remained in the United States, they were conveyed hither. At the same Time an Influx of many Thousands of His Majesty's loyal Subjects also arrived; all were to be located, and Provision made for their Settlement. The approaching Winter excited Apprehensions, and universal Competition to provide Places and Lodgments. The Government here not having had much Experience in settling Inhabitants in a new Country, which requires that Sort of local Knowledge deriveable from Experience only, were embarrassed in the Midst of their Endeavours

Endeavours and Exertions to accommodate the People; of course the Black People, unequal to solicit and manage as the White People did, and habitually less considered, they had not as much Attention as otherwise they might have had, and which was more necessary for them for the Causes before suggested; it therefore resulted, that they were late located, and without proper Method. The ample Provisions, and some Cloathing and Necessaries which were afforded to them by the Justice and Benevolence of Great Britain, became the Instruments of their Idleness and Dissipation, instead of the Basis and Means of their Industry and Comfort. Thus circumstanced, they progressed slowly in social Economy; yet during the Effervescence and Circulation of Money caused by so great an Accession of People, all possessing some, and many considerable Property, the Negroes found Employment and Support. But this State of Things subsiding sooner than was foreseen, and no Arrangement taken to lead into Employment, both White and Black People felt the Inconvenience; many of the former quitted the Province, which the Black People could not do, and they became much impoverished.

In this Situation the sublimest Charity discovered their Distress, sympathized in their Sorrows, and, from undoubted and excellent Motives of Humanity, extended a generous and liberal Relief to their Sufferings.

Unfortunately, however, their Distresses were imputed to the only Cause which had really been friendly to them, *viz.* the Climate; in which they were still healthy, although poor, and almost naked. The Zeal and Affection which their calamitous Case had excited, overlooked this positive Feature, and they were most of them removed, with every possible Care and Comfort, to Sierra Leone, where, I believe, the greatest Kindness has been continued to them. Yet many more of those have died, in Proportion to their Numbers, than of those who remained here. These have almost struggled through their Difficulties, Employments having been encouraged for all Orders of People: The Black People have partaken of its Uses, and daily growing into Habits of managing and providing for themselves, they are now just as happy and comfortable as any other People of the same Occupations in the Province—they are as robust and healthy, and have as many and as fine Children as the other Inhabitants; and, with the Exhibition of some moderate occasional Aid, where Circumstances may arise to require Relief (possibly to the Amount of Five or Six Hundred Pounds per Annum for Three Years to come) I verily believe more real Benefits would be derived to the Cause of Humanity, than from all the Expence that has been incurred for the Settlement of those sent to Sierra Leone.

Since my Appointment to this Government, I have taken Care that they are equally protected and encouraged as other His Majesty's Subjects; and Slavery being almost exterminated here, Distinctions naturally painful to these People are gradually dying away. In the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment under my Command, there are many who act as Pioneers, and are good Men. A Company of those resident in and near the Town are attached to the First Battalion of Halifax Militia, an able, daring, and faithful Body of Men.

At Digby, on the Bafon of Annapolis, in my official Progress last Autumn to examine the local Circumstances of the Inhabitants and Country, I was received by the Regiment of Militia, and on my Departure attended by a Company of Black Men, well armed, of decent and orderly Deportment, and of as good able Stature and Countenance as any other Men. Some few of them were badly cloathed, owing to unavoidable Misfortunes, which might have been relieved at Eighty Guineas Expence, and every Family made quite happy. In every Part of the Province where they are scattered, I have seen them, and never fail to enquire minutely into their Circumstances. They often lament the Want of Cloathing, or the Want of a Cow, or some other particular Comfort; but I never, in any One Instance, have heard them complain of the Climate.

The Care of the Maroons is far different, and more desirable than those People have experienced. These are liberally provided with every Necessary to render the Climate particularly salutary to them. They have zealous and kindly disposed Commissaries residing with them, wholly devoted to supply their Wants, to remedy and relieve all the Difficulties that must be expected to occur in removing to a new Country; in changing the Manners of War and Hunting for those of Peace and patient Industry; and in submitting to be considered without Terror, or the Self-importance derived from it. Means of Instruction and moral and religious Improvement are provided and perseveringly applied to these, while those were long neglected in this important Administration, which is most of all others to be relied upon for their Civilization, and social as well as religious Interests. I cannot but foresee that some Difficulties and Inconveniencies may frequently arise; and that Patience, Vigilance, Perseverance, and Discretion, must be exercised in the Progress of their Settlement, and that it will continue to be a Source of increased Care and Attention to me; but as it is an Object highly interesting to so important a Part of His Majesty's Dominions as the Island of Jamaica, and more especially and above all other Considerations, it being His Majesty's most gracious Commands to pay every Care and Attention to the Comfort and Preservation of these People, I shall continue most dutifully to exert every possible Diligence and Ability

Ability to effect the Royal Commands, which your Grace has been pleased to signify to me; and I have not a Doubt but with as much Success and Happiness to the People as those most interested, for their Welfare will reasonably expect can ever be communicated to that Number and Description.

All which is most humbly submitted, with the utmost Deference, hoping for your Grace's favourable Consideration, and Representation for His Majesty's condescending gracious Approbation.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. WENTWORTH.

His Grace the Duke of PORTLAND.

Extract of a LETTER from Lieutenant Governor Sir JOHN WENTWORTH, Baronet, to His Grace the Duke of PORTLAND; dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 21st December 1796.

THE Maroons continue to be in good Health, only One old Man, upwards of Eighty Years old, is sick. Their Apprehensions of the Winter's Severity is entirely done away, by Experience, good Health, and comfortable Cloathing and Subsistence, which is amply furnished by the Arrival of the Stores from London. Every possible Attention is exercised towards their Comfort, which will be greatly increased by removing them in Families into separate Houses and Farms annexed, as soon as the ensuing Season admits. At present there are more in each House than would be expedient, owing to the Want of Materials and Artificers to build more before the Winter commenced. Every Sunday public Worship is performed in the Church by the Reverend Mr. Gray, which is attended with great Decency and Desire of Instruction—several are baptized, and some married under Engagements to avoid Polygamy. The School is also daily attended by the Children, under Instruction of Mr. Chamberlain, a Man of Education and excellent Principles, peculiarly qualified, having formerly been a Teacher to the Indians in the Wilderness of America, but being a Loyalist, removed to this Place. These Gentlemen, with their Families, have, at my Request, removed into the Maroon Settlement, that, by their daily Advice to the Families, they may be comforted; all Casualties explained, and Modes applicable learned to them, which they are made to comprehend without Difficulty, as all of them understand the English Language, and many of them speak it fluently. From a faithful and judicious Perseverance in these important Institutions, I anticipate the greatest Benefits to these People; and I am fully justified in such Expectations from the Progress already made.

