

## L E T T E R X.

MY LORD,

**F**ROM *Canada*, we will descend with the Stream to *Nova Scotia*, a former Acquisition from the same Power, situate on the Mouth of the River *St. Lawrence*.

Though this Province has been in our Possession above half a Century, since the Peace of *Utrecht*, little or no Advances were made in the Settlement of it, till after the War before the last, when a most numerous Colony, amply provided with every Thing necessary, was sent and settled there, and an excellent Dock-yard, &c. built for the Service of the Navy, stationed in those Parts of *America*, with good Houses for the Officers and Artificers employed in it, and Barracks for the Army, composing together the handsome Town of *Hallifax*, all at the great Expence of Government. But the Success has no Way answered this Expence, except so far as it respects the particular Service of the Navy; the only Advances made in cultivating and improving the Country, being confined within the narrow Limits of the immediate Environs of the Town, all at any Distance remaining in the same unprofitable State as before; so that there is not a sufficient Supply

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of

of the poor Products of the Place even for the Inhabitants, who instead of being able to make any Exports, are obliged to depend for their own Support upon our other Colonies; which they would not be able to pay for, but for the Money spent among them by the Navy, and the Army; the only Benefit received by them from the latter, who are found totally incapable of defending them from the Outrages of the Natives. How far this Benefit may be equivalent to the Expence; and whether Part of that Expence might not answer the End better, if applied in another Manner, not to mention the Loss of so many Men's Labour and Lives, the Scurvy carrying them off in Numbers, are Points well deserving the Attention of Government.

As to the Navy, the Advantage to that is very great, as the Shipping have not only a safe and convenient Harbour to be laid up in, during the Winter Season, when all Navigation is impracticable in those Seas; but can also be repaired, and supplied with any Thing they may want, without the Fatigue, Danger, and Loss of Time of coming Home, upon every Occasion of the Kind, as heretofore.

The Miscarriage in the Settlement of this Province, must not be attributed solely to any insuperable Incapacity in the Province itself. The Climate, though far from being the best, or most agreeable, is yet equally far from being unwholesome, or unfit for the Purposes of Vegetation, if taken timely Advantage of, nor is the Soil so poor, but that with proper Cultivation and Care, it would produce the most valuable of all vegetable Productions, Wheat in great Plenty; and many of the esculent Plants and  
 Roots

Roots in Request among us, if not in so high Perfection as other Countries; yet wholesome and good for Use.

The true Reason of this Miscarriage, is the inveterate Hostility of the Natives, who, though very few in Number, yet by lying in wait always, and in all Places, frequently find Opportunities of committing the most horrid Cruelties and Murders upon the Settlers; and even where they fail of this, they keep them in such a State of continual Alarm and Dread, that they cannot apply themselves to make any lasting or considerable Improvement.

An Enquiry into the Cause of this Malignity in the Natives towards our People is not so immediately to the present Purpose. The first Thing necessary to be done is to guard against the Effects of it; and for this, sad Experience has proved that *European* Soldiers are utterly unqualified, being neither active enough in themselves, sufficiently acquainted with the Country, nor sufficiently inured to the Severity of the Climate, to watch and pursue an Enemy possessed of all these Advantages, and actuated by the keenest Hatred and Animosity. Instead therefore of sending Soldiers from hence, the most effectual Means to put an End to the Inroads of these Savages, obviously is to procure a Body of the Natives of some of the neighbouring Colonies, most firmly attached to us to encounter them. These, from the natural Ferocity of their Disposition, might be brought at a very trifling Expence, comparatively to what we are now at to no Purpose; and when once let loose upon the others, would in a very short Time establish the Country in a State of Safety, by cutting off all those

those actually engaged in Hostilities, and whom Experience has proved it to be impossible to reconcile to us; and taking the rest of all Ages and Sexes Prisoners, to be dispersed among other distant Colonies, where they should not imbibe, nor have an Opportunity of practising such Prejudices.

I am very far myself, my Lord, from approving of the Extirpation of the Natives of any Country, by their Conquerors; and even if I did, have the Honour of knowing your Lordship too well to venture such a Proposal to you. But here the Case is very different. The Country is so large, and so very thinly inhabited, that our Settlements upon it can hardly be called an Intrusion, and are by no Means even an Inconvenience to the Inhabitants; notwithstanding which, and notwithstanding all the Advantages held out by us to them, we have ever found it impossible to subdue their savage Hatred in the least; so that this Severity against them is sanctified by the great, and eternal Law of Self-preservation. The Safety of the Settlers being once established, they would be able to seek out, and establish their Settlements in the Places, most fertile in themselves, and most convenient for their different Purposes of living and Commerce; and soon make such Returns, particularly in Wheat, Hemp, and Flax, for the Production of which, the Soil of the Country is in most Places excellently adapted, as would amply reimburse the Expence of sending them thither.

Our

Our Exports to *Nova Scotia* at present consist of the following Articles.

<p><i>Woollen-Cloths—Foreign and British Linens— Wrought-Iron—Steel—Brass—Pewter—Tin— Hats—Hosiery—Haberdashery—Millinery, and Turnery-Wares—Sail-Cloth—Cordage—Ship- Chandlery-Wares—Fishing Tackle—Saddlery- Wares—Gold and Silver Lace—British Spirits —Wines, and Medicinal Drugs, which cost at an Average of three Years — — —</i></p>	}	£ 26,500
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The Articles exported from *Nova Scotia*, are

<i>Salted Mackerel and Shads, 3000 Barrels at 20s. —</i>	£ 3000
<i>Cod-Fish 2500 Tons at £10 — —</i>	25,000
<i>Fish-Oil, 300 Tons at £15 — —</i>	4500
<i>Whale-bone, 5 Tons at £300 — —</i>	1500
<i>Ship, and other Timber, Masts, Lumber, &amp;c. —</i>	4000
	£ 38,500

By this State, the Trade of this Country appears to consist entirely of Timber, and the Produce of the Fishery; but if

if it were once well settled, not only these might be advanced (the latter to more than double its present Amount, and the former without Bounds, as the Forests cover the whole Face of the Country) but also a new and most advantageous Trade be opened in the several Articles of Tillage before enumerated; beside what more might be struck out, upon Experience, and a better Knowledge of the interior Parts of the Country.

*I have the Honour, &c.*



L E T T E R XI.

MY LORD,

**W**E will now take a Trip, for a few Moments from the Continent to the adjacent Islands of *St. John's*, and *Cape-Breton*.

The Island of *St. John's* differs very little in Climate, but most materially in Soil, from *Nova Scotia*; the latter being much fitter for Tillage, and the former for Pasture. But this  
Difference

Difference is far from a Disadvantage to either, as it gives Rise to an Interchange of their respective Products, in its Nature necessarily attended with Advantage, which their Nearness to each other frees from all Inconvenience, or Danger of Interruption.

While the Inhabitants therefore of *Nova Scotia* apply themselves to Agriculture, those of *St. John's* may turn their Lands to Pasturage; and thereby not only have their Time more at Command to pursue their own Fishery; but also be able to supply those engaged in the other Fisheries with Beef for their Support, and to establish a most profitable Trade in that Article, with the *West-Indian* Islands, where it will always meet abundant Vent.—I do not mean by this, that *Nova Scotia* is utterly unfit for Pasturage; or *St. John's* for Agriculture. I only speak of the Produce, for which each is most fit, and which consequently it must be their Interest to pursue principally, as a Point of Commerce.

The Spirit, with which the Settlement of this Island was undertaken immediately at the Conclusion of the last War, and the Numbers, Rank, and Wealth of the Persons engaged, gave Reason to expect a farther Progress by this Time, than appears to have been yet made in it; but whatever has been the Cause of the Delay, it is to be hoped that the bad Consequences of it are sufficiently seen; and that the Undertaking will be re-assumed with Effect.

As to the Island of *Cape-Breton*, its Importance consists solely in its Situation, of which the *French* took sufficient  
I Advantage,

Advantage, while it was in their Possession, for the Protection of their own and Annoyance of our Fishery upon the Banks of *Newfoundland*. But that Importance has ceased upon its falling into our Hands, who are in the acknowledged Superiority of Possession of the whole Fishery; and therefore the Fortifications erected by them for their Purposes, have been demolished by us, as not being of Use equivalent to the Expence of maintaining them.

The Island though does not thereby lose all Use to us; for as the Cod-Banks extend up to, and all along the Coast of it, it affords a convenient Station for curing the Fish caught there, without the Trouble, Delay, and Expence of carrying them to any other Place for that Purpose; not to dwell upon the Importance of its Harbour, to the Navigation of the River *St. Lawrence*.

Other Purposes it can answer but very few; the Climate being still worse than that of *Nova Scotia*, and the Soil more unfit for Vegetation of every Kind, both on Account of the Rockiness of the Island itself, and its Exposure equally to the Cold of Winter, and Heat of Summer, there being no Forests to shelter Cultivation from them, as on the Continent. To attempt making any permanent Settlements therefore on this Island, must be in vain, as they can never succeed sufficiently to induce the People to stay, or to reimburse the Expence.

*I have the Honour, &c.*

L E T.