



Fort Pownall Octob^r 12th 1772

Hon^d Sir

The but little notice has been taken of the representations I have often made of the state of this country, still I am not willing to neglect any material information. The Indians have frequently complained by petition to his majesty; by petition to the general Court, by personal application to the Governor and Council, that the English settlers encroach'd too' much upon their country that they only requested for this tribe a small tract of land of 12 miles square which they might call their own and under such regulation as his majesty tho't proper. This too, in a part of the country above the falls in this river which they have always inhabited. Every one says their request is reasonable; but no one will vouch safe to promote it, tis may be tho't officious in me to mention it again, nor shoud I do it, if it wasn't so interwoven with the Interest of the Crown. The Cream of this country for land is above Penobscot falls beginning at the Indian settlement; but still I dont take this to be the main inducement to ^ go there. There are also some mill streams, but not better than what are below the falls; but it is the timber which they are after, which I take to be far superior to any about here. It is of a different growth (I mean the pines) they are very large & tall and strait: Some of them I have seen myself: Some of my people whom I sent out further, report that there are trees that will make 36 inch masts and not far from the riverside; but this isn't much known, tho' I suspect that those who woud settle there

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Description: Thomas Goldthwaite's letter to Gov. Hutchinson describing the timber in Maine for potential use of His Majesty's Navy

those are acquainted with it, which is the principal bait,
and the falls are not so great as to impede its coming over
them in the spring and fall. This tract of land is within the
limits of the Indians request, and they are willing that the
timber (which is of no use to them) should be reserved, and
I believe they might be made good guardians over it,
I have hitherto prevented english settlers going on there
but I know not whether I am doing ^{right or} wrong. Still methinks
if a Forest should be destroy'd that would yield a large pro-
portion of masts, fit for his Majesty's Navy, and in a country
too, that is full of Surveyors and Inspectors, it would be for
want of a right understanding, in this matter. This country
grows very fast and the settlers in general are become very
orderly, it wants regulation, and wants it more as the
people increase. We are at too great a distance from the
shire town. Machias is not less than 200 miles from it;
most part of this river is near a hundred miles from it; and
there's a great settlement between Machias there. It is so far
that many people set down by the loss of their debts rather
than carry on a prosecution at such a distance. Many cri-
minals escape punishment; because its impracticable
for an officer at some seasons of the year to carry them
such a length of way, through a country with out roads,
to the County Goal and if it wasn't for the little authority
which a few justices of the peace, who act in this part of the
county, have, every thing would run into confusion. I do
assure you Sir, it is of consequence eno' to be attended to. I am
with due respect Hon^d Sir

Your most observant
Tho Goldthwait

1797
No 9 Henry Gov Hutchinson

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