

Opinions, under pretence of encouraging the Settlement of the Provinces therein preventing his good intentions. At my desire a continuance was Obtained on these Actions, and I have solicited the opinion of His Majesty's Law Officers, which will be more fully elucidated by the Papers &c.

His Majesty's Ministers, benevolently attentive to the convenience of the New Settlers in the Provinces, furnished me with an Instruction (N^o) authorising & requiring me to grant Licences, to Proprietors of Lands to cut and take away such Pine Timber, as was unfit for His Majesty's service, & the Standing of Which was detrimental to cultivation; upon this Instruction it was my Duty to grant Licences after a previous inspection of the Timber and marking such for Reservation, as were fit for the Navy. This Duty has been done, with all possible attention to the interests & accommodation of the Inhabitants, and I may say nearly without exception to them, as their Timber has not been sold for all the Writing and Extra Duty it has naturally & unavoidably occasioned for seven years past. Nor did I ever hear any Complaint, and I most diligently enquired personally and on the Spot, being from June to Eight Months every Year employed myself, in Travelling over all parts of the Country, by which means I had Opportunities of Information, that no other Person could have, And from Twenty six Years experience in this Office; Honoured with continued Approbation of my Services, by His Majesty's Ministers - ~~thereby~~ ^{being} able to judge between the real Interest of the Crown, and the suggestions of Individuals for their own exclusive advantage, ~~It is~~ ^{It becomes} my duty to add that to my best knowledge, there does not arise any real discouragement to the Settlement of the Provinces, from the operations or effects

9-8
London 19th March, 1792.

Sir

I have had the honour to receive your letter, dated the 13th Instant, which I should have sooner answered, but for my absence from Town.

In obedience to the commands of the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, I beg leave most respectfully to submit to their Lordships the following information and opinions on the Extract of Lieut. Governor Carleton's letter dated 15th July 1791, inclosed to me in your Letter.

The prohibition from cutting White Pine Trees by 8th George 1st (Ch: 12th) enacts penalties for cutting or Destroying any, from 12 Inches diameter and upwards. And by the Act of 2^d George 2^d (Ch: 35), it is enacted that the same penalties should be extended altho' the Trees "do grow within the limits of any Township laid out or to be laid out hereafter." The wisdom of these Acts are evident. For if it was lawful to cut & Destroy Trees under 12 Inches Diameter, there would soon ^{be} none left to grow so large as to be within the Limitation, & thereby the whole intention of the Legislature be Defeated. It is Also to be observed that Trees from 12 to 24 Inches Diameter are equally essential for His Majesty's Navy, as those above that size, & therefore as necessarily an Object of Public care, and this seems to have been so considered, in the 2^d George 2^d where Provision is made to counteract the evasions attempted, at that time, under pretence of such Trees growing on Lands granted to Private Persons. The Surveyor General of the Woods, & his Deputies, act under these Statutes, and, happily for the Public interest, not solely under the reservations made of the Pine Timber in some Patents under the Provincial Great Seals. Which His Majesty's Ministers in their most judicious care of an object so highly important to this Kingdom, as Maintaining the Royal Navy, directed should be inserted, Thereby, intending a Forfeiture of the Land.