

" — It may be proper to observe to you that  
 " the doubt conceived upon the claim of  
 " the province of Massachusetts, is not —  
 " founded upon the allegation, that the lands  
 " to the east of Penobscot were not in the  
 " possession of the Crown, at the time of  
 " Granting the Charter, but upon the oper-  
 " ation which the treaties of Ryswick and  
 " Breda (by which treaties this tract of Country  
 " was ceded to France) should be admitted  
 " to have had upon the Charter itself. We  
 " cannot take upon us at present to say  
 " how far all future considerations of  
 " this question is precluded by the order  
 " of Council, grounded upon the opinion  
 " of the Attorney & Solicitor General in 1731.  
 " This is a delicate point, which should  
 " be reserved till the deed shall be come  
 " regularly before us. And, in the mean  
 " time We cannot think it expedient to  
 " advise any conditional Grant what-  
 " ever of this Island. —

" We are your most obedient humble Serv<sup>ts</sup>  
 " Francis Bernard Esq<sup>r</sup> C. Townsend,  
 " Governor of the Joame Jnyns.  
 " Massachusetts Bay Ed. Bacon.  
 " Orwell. "

§ 55.

§ 55. These sentiments of the Lords of Trade, connected with the ideas of their long established influence in Plantation concerns, could not fail to render the Lands between Kennebeck and Saint Croix, an object of speculation.

By the foregoing correspondence between Bernard and the Lords of Trade, and perhaps, by other apt and persevering communications, which must of course be kept secret from the province; he, and his friends and associates, well understood the plan of the Ministry in regard to the Territory.

There was a well known intention, at that time of making a new province, but there were not people enough eastward of Kennebeck, for that purpose, without rendering the Government a burden to the Crown; and whilst the people of the province of Maine were divided in their —

Intentions of Bernard.

Idea of a New province in 1764.

opinion.