1820

Eastern Lands. To the Honorable the Members of the Legislature of Massachusetts

Descendant of Miles Standish

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Recommended Citation
Standish, Descendant of Miles, "Eastern Lands. To the Honorable the Members of the Legislature of Massachusetts" (1820). Maine Bicentennial. 5.
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EASTERN LANDS.

TO THE HONORABLE THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS:

The agreement for the sale of the Commonwealth's lands in the State of Maine, will be submitted to the Legislature for their ratification or rejection the present session. Permit one, who never owned a foot of land in Maine, and who has no possible interest, except for the good of posterity, in the decision, to offer a few remarks upon the expediency of ratifying that bargain.

No country can boast of characters more eminent for shrewdness, patriotism, integrity and fairness, than those honorable gentlemen who composed the committees which recommended the sale, and completed the agreement; but the best men are liable to err in judgment, especially in times when a mania prevails. We have seen periods, even when such characters have been strongly biased, by Land mania, Merino mania, Scrip and Bank mania. —The last having lain in a chrysalis state some time, has come out in the form of five per cent compound interest. Conspiring personal chattels. There must be no turf and twig—no fee simple—no deferred stock—every thing must be tangible—pocketable—and interest-countable every ninety days. Such is the present mania among the minded community.

And a multiplied state of the world has caused a torpor in all pursuits; but it is not a local affection; there is nothing inherent or peculiar in this country, to foster it, for it pervades all parts of the globe. The agriculture, commerce, and even manufactories of the United States, are as prosperous, collectively more so, perhaps, than in any other country; and no solid reason can be assigned why they will not resume their former elasticity. And will any one pretend that our population is not continue to increase in the same ratio that it has for the last ten years?

It is true there has existed strong prejudices against the soil and climate of that State; but they have somewhat subsided, and it may not be deemed visionary to predict, that at the end of forty years, Maine will be found to equal her parent state, in agricultural riches; and at the expiration of another forty years, the bay of Penobscot will be whitened by as many sails, and graced by as many "star-spangled banners" as the bay of Massachusetts. Few who have given the subject an earnest reflection, can doubt that within that period, the United States will become the carriers for the world, and perhaps no spot is better situated for such a commerce, as will by that time be created, than Penobscot bay. I trust they have somewhat subsided, and it may not be doubted that the lands of Maine will prove an addition to the wealth of the nation, at least equal to all the lands of the United States, which have been sold to the Indians, and by which the Commonwealth have been enriched to the extent of two millions of dollars!

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