

Your second Letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>  
 1794. directed to his Excell. Gov<sup>r</sup> Shirley (who is absent  
 by leave of the King) came to my hand, as Commander in  
 Chief of the Province. ~~That of the 28<sup>th</sup> Sept.~~ <sup>two first</sup> ~~Sept.~~ relates wholly  
 to the Exchange of Prisoners and you are pleased to say  
 that ~~the~~ principal reason which prevented your  
 sending back the few English & Indian Prisoners was the  
 detention of 20 Abenakis taken near Saco & 2 Amale  
 cities taken by Mr. Gorham. You will give me leave  
 to observe to you that I know no <sup>sufficient reason</sup> ~~pretext~~ you can  
 have to demand the release of those Indians <sup>when you call aborigines</sup> whose  
 residence has always been at a place called Digisocket  
~~within the bounds of this Province~~ <sup>without your jurisdiction</sup> ~~besides that~~  
 being taken Prisoners <sup>they</sup> voluntarily came in to our  
 Fort & Settlements at the Commencement of the War  
 & desired the Protection & support from the Government  
 which was <sup>granted</sup> ~~granted~~ to them. However as all those  
 Indians ~~were~~ <sup>upon the close settlement of the peace</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>chose</sup> to return to their former manner  
 of living ~~as soon as the Peace was uttered~~ & none of  
 them now remain among the English you can have  
 no further pretence for detaining our Prisoners or  
 for those taken by Mr. Gorham <sup>as I know that</sup> ~~they never were in this Province~~  
~~their Country~~. And while I am on this subject you  
~~will~~ or within my Command.

Received  
 New York 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1794  
 of Benjamin 1794

will give me leave Sir to reply to that Part of your <sup>last</sup> Letter  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> Novem. which relates to those Indians who were  
born & have always lived among the English, in this  
<sup>Government</sup> ~~Province~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~number~~ <sup>of whom</sup> ~~of whom~~ I am informed were taken at Sea,  
on a trading or whaling Voyage, I can by no means  
think that their having embraced the Religion of Rome  
is in any measure a <sup>good</sup> ~~sufficient~~ reason to detain them;  
and I have good Evidence that some or all who were  
living have expressed their desire of being sent home  
even since the date of your Letter but are detained  
against their Wills. If any of them are made Slaves  
or have been threatened with Slavery in order to induce  
a change of their Religion it is so extraordinary a  
procedure & so contrary to the Practice of all  
civilized Nations in later Ages with regard to  
their Captives that I am sure Sir it could never  
be countenanced by you. I must therefore still  
insist upon it with you, that all those Indians  
be returned <sup>being</sup> ~~as~~ Subjects to the King my Master and  
by him committed to my Charge (upon your refusal  
I must in faithfulness to my Trust represent their  
Case to him).

You have been pleas'd to inform in the  
former Part of your Letter that the Papers which  
related to the Expence of the Slaves of Force were