

ISRAEL STOUGHTON TO JOHN WINTHROP¹

To the Right Wor[shipfu]ll the Gouvernour of the Massachusetts these present

HONORED SIR, By this Pinnace being Giggles, you shall Receiue 48 or 50 women and Children, vnlesse there stay any here to be helpfull etc. Concerning which, there is one I formerly mentioned that is the fairest and largest that I saw amongst them to whome I haue giuen a coate to cloath her: It is my desire to haue her for a servant if it may stand with your good likeing: ells not. There is a little Squa that Steward Calacot desireth, to whom he hath giuen a coate. Lifetenant Dampart allso desireth one, to witt a tall one that hath 3 stroakes vpon her stummach thus —|||+: he desireth her if it will stand with your good likeing: Solomon the indian desireth a young little squa which I know not. But I leaue all to your dispose: He had one here for one of his men.

At present Mr. Haynes, Mr. Ludlo, Capteyne Mason and 30 men are with us in Pequid Riuer, and we shall the next weeke joyne in seeing what we can do against Sasacos, and an other great Sagamore: Momomattuck: Here is yet good ruff worke to be done. And how deere it will cost is unknowne: Sasacos is resolud to sell his life and so the other with their Company as deere as they cann: but we doubt not but god will giue him to vs; we are in a faire way. one of the former that we tooke (or that were taken to our hands in a great measure) is a great Sachim, the 3d of the pequids: whom we reserue for a help, and find Gods prouidence directed it well, for we are all cleere he is like to do vs good: yet we are farr from giuing him any assurance of life we see so much worke behind that we dare not dismiss more men yet:

we hope to find a way to bring them in plentifully, and to get the Murderers too: and to make their assosiats tributary if they still adhære to them: for we heare of a great Number up the Country among the Neepenetts: but we shall not deale with them without your advice, unless more remotely.

we haue settled on a place for our randavooze: not full to our Content but the best we could for the present: vpon the Mouth of Pequid Riuer, on the Noanticot side, where we haue 200 acres corne if not 2 or 300 neere at hand, and a curious spring of water within our pallazado, and may by great Gunns Command the Riuer.

So the Charg of keeping this fort need not be great, seeing Corne, water and wood are so neere at hand: and fishing etc.

¹ New York Public Library; *Proceedings*, LI. 285-286; Mather, *Early History of New England*, 285-286.

I pray lett not provisions be neglected with the first, such as the Country affordeth shall content vs: only when we haue frends, as now, we could be-teeme them a peece of Beefe etc: if we had it. The Ru[n]dlet of Sack we haue is some comfort and Credit: but many hands make light worke: and in cases of fayntings, sicknes etc. among a many, It cannot be but occasions will happen of some expence of such things as are a little better then ordinary.

Thus with my dearest Respects remembered to your self with the Councell etc. I take leaue Resting Yours as in duty I am bound

ISRAEL STOUGHTON

[Ca. June 28, 1637]¹ .

[*Endorsed by Governor Winthrop:*] Mr. Stoughton Received 5. 6.