

R E P O R T

FROM THE

C O M M I T T E E

Appointed to Inquire into the

S T A T E *and* C O N D I T I O N

O F T H E

C O U N T R I E S

Adjoining to

H U D S O N ' s B A Y ,

A N D O F T H E

T R A D E

C A R R I E D O N T H E R E .

Printed in the Year M.DCC.XLIX.

The COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the State and Condition of the Countries adjoining to Hudson's Bay, and of the Trade carried on there; and to consider how those Countries may be settled and improved, and the Trade and Fisheries there extended and increased; and also to inquire into the Right the Company of Adventurers trading to Hudson's Bay pretend to have, by Charter, to the Property of Lands, and exclusive Trade to those Countries; have, pursuant to the Order of the House, examined into the several Matters to them referred; and find the particular State thereof to be as follows.

YOUR Committee thought proper, in the first place, to inquire into the Nature and Extent of the Charter granted by King *Charles* the Second to the Company of Adventurers trading to *Hudson's Bay*; under which Charter the present Company claim a Right to Lands, and an exclusive Trade to those Countries: Which Charter being laid before your Committee, they thought it necessary, for the Information of the House, to annex a Copy thereof to this Report, in the Appendix, No. I.

Your Committee then proceeded to examine the following Witnesses; *viz.*

Joseph Robson: Who said, That he had been in the Service of the Company, and resided at *Hudson's Bay* Six Years; that he went over there in the Year 1733. to the best of his Remembrance, and stayed there Three Years; and went a Second time
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in 1745. and stayed Three Years more : That the First time he went he was employed as Stone-Mason, and resided at *Prince of Wales's Fort*, ; and the last time as Mason and Surveyor, the Two first Years of which Time he was at *York Fort* or *Hays's River*, and the last Year at *Prince of Wales's Fort*; but he never was up in the Country, except once up *Nelson's River*, to the Distance of about Forty or Fifty Miles.

That he does not know, nor ever heard of any Settlement up the River ; nor did he see any Marks of Cultivation there ; that the Company have Four Forts in *Hudson's Bay*, and a small Settlement or Two ; but that the Witness was never at any of the said Forts, except the Two before-mentioned ; and that he cannot say how far the Company's Settlements extend North and South.

Being examined as to the Strength of *York Fort* ; he said, It was a square Timber Fort, with Four small Bastions ; that there were Thirty-six Men in the said Fort, including Servants and Factors, and Nineteen great Guns, Twelve, Nine, and Six Pounders, with Three small Guns on each Curtain, carrying Shot from one Pound to one Pound and an half Weight ; that Six or Seven Men are necessary to manage a Twelve Pounder.

And being asked, If there were not *Indians* ready to be called in to defend the Fort? he said he never understood it so, nor had heard any such thing, or of any *Indians* in the Company's Pay ; that during the Time the Witness was there, the *Indians* came in and out on Account of Trade only, sometimes Two or Three at a time, sometimes Thirty ; that there are *Indians* employed to get Provisions, which they barter with the Company ; and if the *Indians* bring no Game in, they are in that case generally allowed half a Pint of Oatmeal a Day, which is given them to keep them from starving ; but that the *Indians* are, in the Apprehension of the Witness, of a Disposition too cowardly to be of any Use in case of an Attack.

And being asked, If the *Indians* are allowed to lodge in the Fort? he said, Some particular Persons are sometimes.

Being examined as to Increase of Strength or Number of the Forts, since the Commencement of the War ; he said, The Company were building a Fort at *Eskimaux Point*, which he believes is not yet finished ; that during the Time the said Fort was building, the Witness wrote a Letter to the Company, that it would be of no Use ; that the Forts he had seen were insufficient, and that better might be erected there : In consequence whereof the Witness had a Letter, appointing him Mason and Surveyor ; but there was not a sufficient Number of Workmen in the Country to keep the Forts in Repair.

That

That *Prince of Wales's Fort*, when finished, will mount about Thirty-seven Canon, and is 300 Feet from Bastion Point to Bastion Point, and is built of Stone, and coming down in many Places ; that the Company's chief Factor built the Fort, under whose Directions the Witness was employed in the Execution of the Masonry, and built a Part of the East and South Bastions, about Eight Foot high, which stands very well: This was, some of it, built in the Year 1733. and was covered with a Timber Parapet, which was taken down as the Stone Work could be erected.

And being asked, If the Coldness of the Climate was not the Reason of the Stone Work's falling down? he said, If that had been the Case, the Work executed by him (the Witness) would have come down as well as the rest ; that the Stone Work fell down both in Winter and Summer ; that the Morter scales off in Winter ; but that the Stone, which is all rough and hard, stands the Winter ; that the Orders sent by the Company for repairing the Forts were proper : But the Witness was contradicted by the chief Factor ; nor had he Hands to execute them.

And being asked, If he did not know, before he went the Second time to *Hudson's Bay*, that there were not a sufficient Number of Hands for a Work of this Nature ; and why in that Case he did not represent to the Company the Necessity of sending more? he said, He did not know the Nature of his Work till he was got over ; that he executed a Contract as Mason and Surveyor ; but it was not expressed in the Contract what he was to do ; and understood he was to draw Charts or Plans of Rivers ; and did not know of the Orders he afterwards received in the Country, nor of any Masons Works to be executed: And in the first Letter the Witness wrote to the Company from *York Fort*, he represented that there were not Hands to do the Work ; but that he found an Engineer there, who, together with the Governor, took the Direction out of the Hands of the Witness ; that there were never more than Eight or Ten Men employed besides the Witness, and sometimes only Two or Three ; that the Foundation of the Fort was laid before the Witness went over ; and that he built thereon Eight Foot from the Ground ; that in the Absence of the Witness the Works were raised on what he had already built ; which Superstructure he was afterwards obliged to pull down and repair.

And being asked, If the bad State of the Forts was to be ascribed to the Want of proper Directions from the Company, or want of Hands? he said, The Fault was in the chief Factor, who contradicted the Witness in every Point ; but in case he had not, there were not Hands sufficient to do the Business.

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Being asked as to the Number of *British* Subjects in the Company's Settlements; he said, The first Year he was at *York Fort* there were 36 Persons there; and at *Churchill* 44 or 45; that he never saw any *British* Subjects there, except the Company's Servants, nor any other *Europeans* whatsoever; nor did he ever hear of any People desirous to fix there, or that the Company had ever offered Encouragement to *British* Subjects to settle there: That the Witness understands a little of the *Indian* Language; and by what he has been able to collect from the Natives, they are about Three Weeks in coming down from their Country to the Forts, which they explain by saying, they sleep so often in their Journey, which the Witness apprehends to mean, that they are so many Days in coming down; but he has heard of the *Indians* coming down one continued Journey for Two Months: That the Company never sent up any People into the Country to trade with the Natives, though the *Indians* would gladly entertain them; and have frequently asked, Why the *English* would not go up as well as the *French*?

That the present Method of carrying on the Trade is, for the *Indians* to bring down their Goods to the Fort, and deliver them through a Window or Hole; and the Goods brought down are Beavers Skins, Martens, Foxes, Furs, Pelts, and Feathers: That he has heard of Pieces of Ore taken out of a Mine, and sent home to the Company as a Curiosity; but no People were sent to work those Mines: That the Country is well wooded up *Nelson's River* with Fir-trees; but the Witness saw no Cedar nor Oak: That he does not know of any Tar or Pitch made there; but has seen a small Quantity of Whalebone, he thinks about Two or Three hundred Weight, brought from *Hudson's Streights*, and some Oil from *Eskimaux*.

That he is of Opinion, Oil and Copper might be brought from thence, having seen Copper round the *Indians* Necks and Arms; that he has seen about a Pound and Half, or Two Pounds, of Copper Ore, which he understood from the Natives they brought from a great Distance, but can't say how far; and he has likewise seen Ore, which he imagined to be Iron or Tin Ore: That there are great Numbers of White Whales and Seals; and the Witness has also seen Black Whales, but not directly in *Hudson's Bay*, but in the Streights; and that Oil might be made from the Whales, Seals, and White Bears; that he can't recollect any other Commodities, except some shining Stones, of the Value of which he is no Judge; that he has heard the Ore has been sent over to be tried, but does not know how it proved.

That

That the Fir-trees about *Churchill River* are about Thirty Foot high ; but there are very tall Trees upon *Nelson's River*, which may be floated down ; that he has seen small Birch-trees up in the Country ; and the Canoes coming down *Nelson's River*, which runs South West, are made of Birch-bark.

He further said, He was acquainted with the Company's Standard of Trade ; that the Method is, to appoint Two Traders, and no other of the Company's Servants are admitted to trade : That he thinks the Company take Fifteen Beavers for a Gun ; and, in his Opinion, if the Standard of Trade was more advantageous to the *Indians*, a greater Quantity of Furs and Pelts would be brought : That he has never seen any of the *French*, but has seen *Indians* who have said, they traded with the *French* ; and has seen Goods carried in Canoes to the *French*, as the *Indians* told him : That the *Indians* bring down Beavers, and that he does not apprehend any of the Produce of the Country is sold by Factors to the *French* ; but he thinks, that the Beavers which are brought down to the Company, are refused by the *French*, from their being a heavy Commodity ; for the Natives who come to trade with the Company, dispose of their small valuable Furs to the *French*, and bring down their heavy Goods to the Company, in Summer, when the Rivers are open, which they sell, and supply the *French* with *European* Goods, purchased from the Company.

And being asked, If there were not great Falls on the Rivers ? he said, He met with no Obstruction in going up 40 or 50 Miles, only the Stream and Tide ; and that the *Indians* could row all the Way he went ; that he sailed up all the Falls very easily, though they were called great Falls : That the *Indians* come to *Churchill River* in *July*, and stay Three Weeks, or a Month ; that some few come after *Christmas*, when they come down upon the Ice, and carry home Powder and Shot in Exchange for Furs ; that he never knew any Goods returned on the *Indians* Hands ; and he has heard the chief Factor say, That if the *Indians* bring down a Quantity of Goods insufficient to purchase Necessaries for their Subsistence, the Company will (if they know them) trust them with Goods, which the Witness looks upon as an Encouragement : That there are generally Six or Eight *Indians* stay about the Fort all the Year round, who, when they can't get Provisions, are allowed half a Pint of Oatmeal a Day.

And being asked, If he ever heard the *Indians* complain of not having a sufficient Price for their Goods ? he said, He was not admitted to talk with them, except in the Fort, the Company's

pany's Servants being forbid to converse with the *Indians* privately; but he has heard some *Indians*, who speak *English*, frequently complain of their not having Victuals or Wages enough; but those *Indians* never converse with the *French*, nor go far from the Forts.

That during the Time the Witness was at *York Fort*, the Company's Servants were treated well, but while he was at *Prince of Wales's Fort*, very indifferently with regard to Provisions: That the Company's Servants carry no Goods, being forbid to trade with the *Indians*, even for their own Provisions; and that he never knew any of the Company's People sent on Discoveries into the inland Parts; that there are trading *Indians* who come from the North, Thirty or Thirty-five in a Gang, and generally in the Winter; they bring their Provisions along with them, which consist of the Flesh of Deer, Beaver, or what other Animals they can catch, which is dried quite hard, and reduced to a Powder like Meal; that there is Grass in Abundance in the Northern Parts, a Yard high; but, in the Opinion of the Witness, Corn would not grow there; but that he had eat Peas and Beans which grew at *York Fort*, in Latitude 57 Deg. but never knew any other Corn tried there; that the Quantity of Peas and Beans he speaks of, was as much as Six or Eight People could eat; but there are a thousand Acres of Ground in Latitude 57 Deg. which, if cultivated, would produce the same, and a much larger Tract to the Southward; that the Peas and Beans grew by common Cultivation, without any Force, but the Produce was not so large as in *England*.

And being asked, If it would not be a great Advantage to the Company to grow Corn at *York Fort*, or their other Settlements? he said, It would doubtless be so, and it was reasonable to think they would do it; but there were many Things not done, which would be of great Advantage besides that; and there must be some secret Cause for it, to which the Witness was a Stranger.

Being asked, How long the Frost was out of the Ground at *York Fort*? he said, It was hardly ever quite out of it; for he had dug Three Foot and an half deep, and then found a Shell of Ice, under which the Ground was all soft; that the Place he dug in was low Ground, about 13 Foot from High-water Mark, never having an Opportunity to dig up in the Country; but the Surface of the Ground was free, from the latter End of *May*, to the latter End of *August*; and in the Summer they have Eighteen Hours Sun at *Churchill*; that by the Accounts of the People coming down, the Frost breaks some Months sooner up in the Country; that the Cold in Winter may be endured without any Inconveniency, their Cloathing being adapted to the Climate; that

that the Witness has suffered more from Cold in this Country, than ever he did there; that Flesh will freeze; but he never knew any Person lose his Fingers; that the Soil will bear Roots, such as Carrots, Radishes, and Turneps; it also produces Coleworts, all which Roots and Greens grow in as great Perfection as they do here; but he don't know, whether the Seed produced there will grow again; and he don't think there are Two Acres cultivated at both the Factories where he has resided; that the Factories are in part subsisted by killing Geese, Fowl, and Deer; they have likewise a certain Grain which they call Rice, but no Pulse; and if the Land at the Bottom of the Bay was properly cultivated, the Produce would support Numbers of People.

That he has seen Oxen and Horses belonging to the Company at *Prince of Wales's Fort*, which were brought from *England*, and fed with Hay and Corn, the Hay being got there, and made into Stacks; and they catch Fish in the Summer Season, and till near *Christmas*.

That he apprehends, there are *Indians* higher in the Country besides those the Company trade with; for it was commonly reported at *York Fort*, that some *Indians* were coming down who had never been there before; but were prevented by being overfet in a Stream, and lost their Goods.

That there was no Settlement at *Nelson's River* when the Witness was there; but he apprehends it the properest Place for a Settlement, though *Hayes's River* is within Six Miles of it, upon which *York Fort* stands; but the Works might be carried on at *Nelson's* in a much better manner.

That he apprehends the Country might be settled and inhabited, if People would go up the Rivers till they find a better Climate, and there erect Settlements; that he does not doubt but he himself could find Three or Four hundred *British* Subjects, who would willingly go there to live Winter and Summer, and the Witness would go for One; that he would advise them, in that Case, to go up, Eight or Ten in Company, till they come to a warmer Climate; and the Ships that come to fetch their Goods, might bring them Provisions; and in that case they might trade with the Natives all the Year round, and live as the *Indians* do; that he would venture to go up into the Country with Six or Seven in Company, as far as the Rivers run; and that they could carry on Traffick without understanding the Language; that he never was up among the *Indians*, and believes the Factor would not have allowed it, having always understood his Orders were quite the contrary, and that the Company never send People up into the Country.

Being asked, If the Company would grant Lands to private Persons, it would not be sufficient Encouragement? he said, That Lands so far to the Northward would not do.

Being asked, If any Person could maintain himself and a Family, at the Bottom of the Bay, by Cultivation of Lands, or any Trade whatever, except the Fur Trade? he said, Not at first; that the Company buy up all the Furs that are brought to the Fort, and killed in Season; but they don't take proper Measures to get all the Furs they can; for, in the Opinion of the Witnesses, if Persons were sent among the Natives to encourage them, they would bring down many more.

Mr. *Richard White* said, He went to *Albany Fort* in the Year 1726. as Clerk to the Company, and stayed there Seven Years; that he had been Ten Years at *Churchill*, which is the Northernmost Fort; and had also been at *Moose River*, which is the Southernmost; that his Business was to take Account of Goods, and to balance the Accounts; that all the Forts, except *Churchill* and the *Prince of Wales's Fort*, are built of Wood, and the Number of People in each Fort is uncertain; that the Complement of *Europeans* at *Albany Fort*, was 24; that he went over to *Churchill* in the Capacity of Second, which he explained to be the Person, who, in case of the Governor's Death or Removal, is to succeed him; that this is no more than an empty Title, and he can give no Account of the Method of Trade, other than what is carried on at *Albany*, where he acted as Clerk, as aforesaid; that he is not at present in the Company's Service, having served out the Time of his Contract, and not desiring to renew it, and that his Resignation was voluntary: That the Trade consists of Beavers, Furs, Pelts, and Feathers, which the *Indians* bring down in Canoes, the Company never sending out Persons to traffick with them; that the Method of Trade with the *Indians* is fixed by a Standard delivered to the Governors by the Company, and they never trade lower than that Standard directs; but they generally double the Standard, that is, where the Standard directs One Skin to be taken, they generally take Two; that he does not know whether this is done by Direction of the Company, nor how the Governor disposes of the extraordinary Profit arising by this Advance of the Standard.

And being asked, If he thought the Governor would do his Duty, if he did not purchase the Goods at the cheapest Rate? he said, He thinks he ought to follow his Directions, and not to lower the Standard, since it would be for the Advantage of the Publick to give a more advanced Price, as it would encourage
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the Natives to bring more Skins down, who bring their Commodities from a great Distance, and will not bring them at all, if they can sell them nearer home for a better Price.

That the *French* intercept the *Indians* coming down with their Trade, as the Witness believes, he having seen them with Guns, and Cloth of the *French* Manufacture; and that an *Indian* told him, there was a *French* Settlement up *Moose River*, something to the Southward of the West, at the Distance, as the Witness apprehends, of about Fifty Miles.

And being asked, If he thought the *Indians* would bring any Furs at all, if they could sell them dearer? he said, The *French* deal in light Furs, and take all of that Sort they can get, and the *Indians* bring the heavy to us; that sometimes the *Indians* bring down Martens Skins, but that is when they don't meet with the *French*; but he never knew any *Indians*, who had met the *French*, bring down any light Furs; that he thinks, if the Governors would advance the Price, even for large Furs, which the *French* won't buy, it would encourage the *Indians* to bring down the light Furs, who say they often throw their heavy Goods overboard, rather than undergo the Difficulties of bringing them down from the Want of Provisions.

That the *French* deal in a different manner from us; they reckon each Marten as a Beaver, whereas the Company fix Three Martens for a Beaver.

And being asked, Whether if the Governor was to reduce the Standard so low as only to give Twelve Flints for a Beaver, those Skins would not be brought? he said, He believed not; for the *Indians*, in his Opinion, would not come again.

That he has conversed with *Indians* at *Albany*, who told him, They were Two Moons in coming down, and some of them not so long; and that some of their Countrymen carried Beavers to the *French*: And some of those *Indians* were cloathed in *French* Cloth.

That the *French* Settlement on *Moose River* is on *Abittibis Lake*; that the *Indians* sometimes come down *Moose River* to *Albany Factory*, but not often; in which case they come near the *French* Settlement, but not close by it, it being on a Lake near the River.

That he has been up *Albany River* about Forty Miles, and saw no Sign of Habitation, only some little Houses; that by all Reports the *Indians* trade to more Advantage with the *French* than with the Company; for the *French* require Thirty Martens for a Gun; and sometimes, when they are scarce of Goods, Thirty-five; for sometimes they have not Goods to trade with the Natives; whereas

whereas the *English*, for a Gun; require Thirty-six, and sometimes Forty.

That the Trade is chiefly carried on in Summer-time, when the Ice is out of the River, though sometimes the *Indians* near the Forts come down in Winter, and the Company never refuse to trade with them whenever they come; and he never saw any Beavers or Furs refused, which were killed in Season, or any good Skins rejected; that the *Indians* have no Warehouses, every Family bringing their own Skins; and if they would bring more, the Company would undoubtedly buy them; but he cannot account for their not encouraging them to bring more down.

Being asked, What the Value of *European* Goods in the Company's Possession at *Hudson's Bay* might be? he said, He could not judge of that, the Value being never specified, but only the Quantity.

That the Fur Trade might, in the Opinion of the Witness, be extended, by sending up People into the Country with Goods, to winter among the Natives; that the Witness himself, if a young Man, and properly encouraged, would be willing to go on such an Undertaking; that he was of that Opinion during the Time he was in the Company's Service; but never disclosed such his Opinion to the Company, because the Governors loved to have the sole Management of Affairs; and if any inferior Person should offer to interfere in Matters of that Nature, he is sure to be immediately discharged.

That the *Indians* about the Factory have brought many Deer and Elks Skins to *York Fort*; which is the principal Port for those Skins.

Being examined as to the Treatment of the *Indians* by the Governors; he said, That he had never known any *Indians* to whom the Governors gave Credit, on their bringing down a Number of Skins insufficient to furnish them with Necessaries for the following Year; that when the *Indians* have been in want of Provisions, he has known the Governors refuse to give them any; but does not know for what Reason he refused it, it not being proper for a Person of inferior Rank to ask a Reason for the Governor's Actions; that he has seen the Governors beat and strike the *Indians*, the Reason of which he imagines to be, that they had affronted the Governor, or stole a Hatchet, or some such thing; but he never knew any Goods taken from them without paying something for them; they deliver the Goods first, and then the Governors give them what they please; but sometimes, if the *Indians* make a Noise, they give them their Goods again.

That

That the Company make no Difference in the *Indians* coming down to Trade, but favour the Hunters; and some Governors use them better than others; and it is certainly the Interest of the Company to use the *Indians* well, since several, to the Knowledge of the Witness, are prevented from coming down to trade on Account of ill Usage; and 'tis a common thing with the Governors to make Presents to the Captains or Chiefs of the *Indians*, to encourage them to bring as many Men as possible; but that the Trade might be further extended by sending up *Europeans* to winter among the Natives; which, though the Company have not lately attempted, the *French* actually do, the Witness having seen and conversed with a *French Canadian*, called *Joseph de Lustra*, who wintered several Years among the *Indians*.

That a Boat of Thirty Ton would not be able to sail far up *Albany River*; but large Canoes which carry Twenty or Thirty Men, with Luggage, will go up that River.

That the Company suffer their Servants to hunt, who are allowed one half of the Profits of what they catch; but he never heard of any going above Sixty Miles up *Churchill River*; that the Witness was never above Forty Miles up in the Country; and it would be necessary to make Settlements much higher than that, to hinder the *French* from intercepting the *Indians* as they come down; and he thinks it would be for the Interest of the Company to make such Settlements; but perhaps they may be advised to the contrary.

That he went about Forty Miles up *Albany River* upon the Ice, in Search of Timber, but found none to answer his Purpose; and the Reason why he went no further was, that he was limited in Time, as is usual in such Cases; that in this Journey they met with Ducks and Geese, but no Corn or Huts; that 'tis possible to travel 500 Miles, as the Witness believes, and not meet with any Inhabitants, who have no fixed Places of Abode, as Towns or Villages; but are continually wandering up and down: But there are Places where they lay up their Goods, and where People might trade with them, if they would go up; that Houses might be built in the Woods near the Rivers, and the Goods might be drawn up; and that those Places where the *Indians* lay up their Goods are sometimes near the Rivers, and sometimes not.

Being asked, Whether lowering the Standard of the *Hudson's Bay Company* Fifty *per Cent.* or settling Factories, would tend most to increase the Trade? he said, He was not a competent Judge of that; but in his Opinion the building of Factories would be the better Method.

That he makes no Doubt but the Company would trade higher up in the Country, if they thought it advantageous; but he cannot

not say whether Strangers could go higher, or carry on a better Trade; but if the Trade was laid open, he apprehends more Goods would be brought, because many People would carry small Quantities of Goods up the Rivers, and get great Part of the Trade from the *French*; and that he don't imagine the separate Traders could carry on Trade at the Factories; but that they would go up into the Country where there is no Danger from the Cold, which is much more intense at the Factories.

That the Governor at *Albany* had a Garden in which Peas, Beans, Turneps, and Sallad, grew as good and plentiful as in *England*; but he never knew Seed raised in that Country sown again; that he saw a small Quantity of Barley growing near *Moose River* in *August*, which is about Two Months before the cold Weather, which Barley was in the Ear, but not full; but as he has never been used to Tillage, he is a very indifferent Judge in those Matters.

That he saw Fir-trees on the Banks of *Albany River* 35 or 40 Foot long, and 14 or 16 Inches square at Bottom, and 10 at the Top, and here and there a small Stick of Birch; that there are a great many other small Pines; but he does not know whether Pitch or Tar could be made from them, having never seen a Trial.

That some Settlement must be made before any Trade could be carried on, and he does not know any Part of the Country near the Bay, where they could be more advantageously placed, than where the Company's Forts at present are; but he is unacquainted with any of the Rivers, except those where the present Settlements are; that he apprehends that private Persons would not by making a Settlement gain an exclusive Right to trade there; but that the next Ships that came would make use of it; nevertheless he apprehends such private Adventurers would undertake it even under that Disadvantage.

That the Country affords Plenty of Fish, Whale-bone, and Oil; that there is also Timber; but the Witness is not sure whether it is worth bringing Home; nor does he know whether it would afford Pitch and Tar; that he knows of no Mines there, nor ever saw any great Quantities of Whalebone; for the Vessels don't go constantly; but if they went yearly, he thinks they would bring great Quantities of Oil and Bone; but he does not know whether this is so good a Place as *Davis's Streights* for Whale-fishing, not being acquainted with the Whale-Fishery; nor can he tell what Quantity of Bone might be had.

That the Company have some Sloops to send up Rivers, and trade coastwise with the Natives; one of which was sent a Year or Two to trade with the *Eskimaux*, and then left off that Trade
a Year

a Year or Two: There is also a Sloop manned with Eight Men, which winters in *Slude River* for the Coast Trade.

That the Witness has heard from *Indians* that there are Nations higher in the Country, with whom the Trading *Indians* are always at War; and some of the Slaves taken from those Nations have traded with the Company; that the Witness thinks a Trade might be opened with the neighbouring *Indians*, by means of Presents; that the People with whom the Trading *Indians* are at War, are, at the Distance of Two or Three Months Journey up in the Country, where the Weather is warmer; and the People going up to trade must winter there; that the Natives are not a warlike People, being expert in nothing but Bush-fighting; that possibly they might lie in wait for a Man; but he must be guarded by the neighbouring *Indians*; and if the Witness himself was a young Man, he would undertake to go; that the Disposition of the *Indians* who trade with the Company is sociable and free: Some of them the Witness believes will steal, and others will not; but in generally Theft is looked upon as a heinous Crime amongst them; but when drunk they are apt to be quarrelsome; that no one dares maltreat them but the Governor; and he sometimes will beat them; but the Company's Instructions to the Governors are to use them civilly; that the Witness has seen Copper Ornaments about the *Indians*.

That he apprehends the Countries adjoining to *Hudson's Bay* might be settled and improved; and that in the Southern Parts Oats, Barley, and Peas, would grow; but if Persons were allowed to settle, he does not apprehend they could at first subsist by the Cultivation of Lands only; that he does not know why the Company don't grow their own Corn, nor whether any Proposal has been made to them for that Purpose; for he really thinks Corn would grow there; which certainly would tend much to the Advantage of the Company, as well as to the Security of Persons residing there; that their common Provisions are Fish and Fowl; and they have no Bread but what comes from *England*; that all Corn keeps there very well, except Peas; that in a general Way they have Two Years Provisions before-hand in their Forts, especially of Bread.

Being asked, If the *Indians* could not cultivate Corn for One Third of the Price it costs in *Europe*? he said, The *Indians* are in general a slothful People, and cultivate no *Indian* Corn; but eat Flesh, instead of it; that he never heard of any Attempts made by the Factors to civilize these People; nor is it an easy Matter to be attained, since it would be necessary in that case to bring them up to Labour from their Youth; that every *European* in the Company's Service is positively ordered not to converse, trade,

trade, or traffick with the *Indians*, directly or indirectly, on Pain of forfeiting all his Wages; and he is further subject to be punished at the Governor's Pleasure, who has ordered one of the Company's Servants to be put in Irons, and whipp'd, for that Offence; and that when the Witness talked with the *Indians*, as he mentioned, before he was authorized to do it by the Governor.

And being asked, Whether he had ever known a Man whipp'd for no other Crime but talking with the *Indians*? he said, He had known one Man, whose Name was *Adam Farquar*, whipp'd for being taken in an *Indian* Tent, in the Trading Time of the Year, conversing with an *Indian* contrary to the Governor's Orders; which Orders are hung up in the several Forts, and consist, for the most part, of Paragraphs out of the Company's Letters, declaring that you are not allowed to act in such and such a manner; and, among other Restrictions, forbidding Trade or Converse with the *Indians*, on Pain of corporal Punishment.

That the Witness believes, that the Company's Servants would trade, if they were not prohibited; that they would often part with their wearing Cloaths or Victuals for that purpose.

And being asked, Whether the said *Farquar* was not punished for conversing with an *Indian* Woman; and whether if the *Europeans* were allowed to converse with the Women, it would not drive away the *Indians*? he said, He believed not; for the *Indians* were a sensible People, and agree their Women should be made use of.

That he believes the *Indians* would kill no more Beasts than what is sufficient to purchase Commodities for the Year, as he has seen them act in the same manner, with regard to Venison; and he does not know, whether, if they could have an advanced Price for their Goods, they would not bring down fewer Skins than they do at present.

That the Commodities the *Indians* set the greatest Value upon, next to Necessaries, are Bread, Vermilion, and Toys; and that he takes the Countries to be better for Hunting, at 50 or 60 Miles Distance, than at the Factories.

That he knows not of any Attempts made to educate Children, except those of *Englishmen*, who are generally the Governors Sons; that some of the *Indians* would suffer them to educate their Children, and some would not; and that he was told by Governor *Myatt*, who died in the Year 1729. that some had been instructed in the Christian Religion, particularly a Boy, who wrote a Letter to the Company desiring to come over to be baptized; upon which the Company sent an Order to Mr. *Stanton*, the then Governor, to take away his Books, and not let him
read

read any more; upon which the Boy was sent out of the Factory, and died, as the Witnesses heard, in the Year 1725.

Being asked, Whether it has been the general Practice of the Governors to encourage or discourage Trade; he said, that some of their Governors have their Measure for Powder too short, and don't fill even that short Measure above half full; that the Profits gained by this Method are distinguished by the Name of the Overplus-trade, which signifies the Number of Skins which are gained more than are paid for, on the Footing of the Standard: That the Company know of this Practice, for that the Witness himself had kept Accounts of it for Seven Years; and either the Governor, or the Company, take all the Profits of the overplus Trade; and that he has known 11 Canoes leave the Factory at *Albany Fort*, at One time, for want of a Present of a Bottle of Brandy.

Mr. *Matthew Serjeant* said, He had been employed in the Company's Service; that he knows the Nature of the Trade, which consists chiefly in Furs, which the *Indians* barter for Brandy, Tobacco, Blankets, Beads, &c. And the *Indians* sometimes trade in Oil and Feathers; that the Servants of the Company are absolutely forbid to trade; and he has seen One beat for only going to an *Indian* Tent to light a Pipe; that these Punishments are inflicted at the arbitrary Will of the Governor; that he never saw any of the Skins, brought down by the *Indians*, refused, except they were damaged; but that a greater Trade might be established, by concluding a Peace between Two *Indian* Nations that are at War, which might be easily performed, by sending some *English* with a little Brandy.

That he understands the *Indian* Language pretty well; and heard frequent Complaints, made by the *Indians*, of the Treatment they receive from the Governors, who sometimes beat them; but he cannot say they do it without Provocation; that the Behaviour of the *Indians* in general is very civil; 'tis but very few among them that will steal; and they are very good-natured when they are sober.

That the Witnesses never saw any of the Governors beat a sober *Indian*; but the *Indians* complain they have too little allowed for their Goods, which is their chief Complaint; but he never heard them say, they could have more elsewhere; and the Persons complaining came down to trade again: That he never heard any of them say, that the *French* Trade was more advantageous, nor that they would bring down more Goods; but he has heard them speak *French*, and pray in the *French* Language; but never

heard them pray in *English*: That he has Reason to believe the Trade might be increased by encouraging the *Indians*; for when the Witness was in *Hudson's Bay*, Governor *Myatt*, by giving a Suit of Cloaths to every *Indian* Chief, that brought down Men, extended the Trade in such a manner, that double the Number of Skins were brought down; that the Witness does not know whether the same Encouragement is now given: That the Factors take all their Furs, except the damaged Skins, which seems to be a sufficient Encouragement to bring all they can; but, in the Opinion of the Witness, if they would give to every *Indian* Leader a Gallon of Brandy, and for every *Indian* of the Nation of the *Poets* a Gallon and a Half, it would induce that Nation to come down, and consequently enlarge the Trade.

That the Witness was never any higher in the Country at *York Factory* than Twelve Miles up the River; that he travelled by Land from *Moose River* to *Albany Fort*, which is 100 Miles along the Coast: That he was Thirty Miles up the River from *Albany Fort*; and the Soil is very good for Four Months in the Year, and produces good Turneps: That the good Soil is not quite Two Feet deep, when you come to a Stratum of Loam and Sand; that in some Places the Frost is never out of the Ground, but you may dig through it; that the Turneps he has eat there are as good as ever he eat in *England*; but he does not know whether Seed raised there would produce the same; that 'tis the general Opinion of the Factory at *York Fort*, that the Soil is proper for Wheat, Barley, Rye, or Oats; that he has seen very good Beans and Peas grow there, but he never saw any Corn grow there, except some wild Oats; and that his Mess-mate did sow some Corn there, which, though it grew a good Height, never came to Perfection; but, in the Opinion of the Witness Oats would ripen at *Albany*, where he has a Cherry-tree, bearing black Cherries; that he has seen the *Indians* bring down Currans, which, they said, grew in their Country; they also brought down Sugar, which was very black, and made from the Tree of which their Paddle was made; that the *Indians* informed the Witness, that there are large Lakes behind the Factory; that the Witness had been in a Lake Ten Miles long, without any Fall going to it; and had had Accounts from the *Indians* of a Lake 100 Miles long: But he never asked the *Indians* whether the River was navigable to it, but does not apprehend there is any Fall but that the Canoes might come down; for they either tow or carry their empty Canoes at the Falls; that the Witness has seen what they call Falls, which are not caused
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by the Streightness of the River, but by Stones; that he drew a Map of the Country, which he has lost; which Map had Six Lakes in it; that of 100 Miles long was the largest; and there is a Lake half-way up to *Mississipi*; that he has heard the *Indians* say, there is a Sea at the back Part of the Country, but never asked them at what Distance; that the *French* trade with the *Indians*, and it is said they have a small Factory 50 Miles up *Moose River*; that he does not know the Company's Limits, but has heard them say, the *French* are not to come within 500 Miles of their Forts.

That the Frost is sometimes Two, sometimes Three Feet thick; that it begins to thaw at *Albany* about the 8th or 10th of *April*, where there is a good Soil for Six or Eight Inches, which may be gained within about a Fortnight after the Beginning of the Thaw; that in Two or Three Weeks more, as the Weather happens, it thaws to the Depth of Two Feet, commonly by the Beginning of *May*: And the Frost sets in again the Beginning of *October*; and when the Witness was there the 4th of *October*, it came in very hard; that the Witness believes there is time enough to grow Wheat; for if Summer Grain was sown early in the Southermost Parts, he thinks there would be time for it to ripen, and gather it in; but the Frosts break sooner up in the Country, and come in later; that there are vast Tracts of Land fit for Cultivation; and the Witness had seen very good Lettice, Spinage, Dewberries, Strawberries, and black Cherries; that the *Indians* very rarely eat any Bread, nor do they live long enough in one Place to raise Corn; nor have they any Yams or Potatoes, their Provisions being Fish and Flesh, which they preserve by drying it, not having the Art of Salting; that in case they were instructed in the Arts of Tillage, he does not know whether they would stay long enough in a Place to raise Corn; for though they love Bread dearly, they would rather go a Hunting than cultivate Land; and that the wild Oats he mentioned before, never came to Seed, being little better than a Species of Grass; that Grass grows there sufficient for the Support of Cattle; and that they have made Hay at *Albany*; that if the Company was to grow Corn, they apprehend the *French* would come and take it as they did their Sheep in the last War; but they might protect their Corn from the *Indians*; but the Witness does not think it for the Benefit of the Company to grow Corn; because they must have a House built at a Distance from the Factories, and Men to watch it, to prevent the Home *Indians* from stealing it; they must also have Men to cultivate it, which would be very expensive: The Witness cannot determine whether it
would

would not be more so than having their Corn from *Europe*; and he thinks the Company would sow it, if it was for their Advantage.

But the Case would be different, if Strangers were allowed to settle there, who, if they built Forts up in the Country, might cultivate Lands round the Forts, and by that means protect the Corn at a small Expence: He believes Corn would grow 20 Miles to the North of *Albany*; but if the Witness was to engage in this Trade, he should not think it worth his while to sow Corn.

That the Company in most Cases are governed by the Advice of their Factors, who in some Cases have not extended their Trade so much as they might, particularly in not building a Factory between *Cape Diggs* and the *East Main*; that he does not know why they have neglected to build such a Factory; but believes the *Indians* throw away their Goods rather than bring them down to the present Factories; which would be prevented, if a Factory was erected there.

That *East Main Factory* lies upon *Slude River*, as the Witness thinks; and there are Furs between the *East Main* and *Cape Diggs*; that he has seen Fir-timber there 38 Inches Diameter, and 50 or 60 Feet high, a great deal of which would be fit for Masts to Vessels of Two or Three hundred Tons Burden, but cannot say whether it would be worth while for a Merchant to bring that Timber home: He has likewise seen great Quantities of Timber and Birch-trees; that they make great Quantities of Turpentine there, and will give a Deer's Bladder full for a Bottle of Brandy.

That there is no Intercourse with the *Indians* between *Slude River* and *Cape Diggs*; and the *Indians* have told the Witness, that there are many Deer and Beavers there; that he thinks the Trade might be extended to many other Forts, by giving Encouragement to the *Indian* Chiefs, and might be carried on without any Company at all; that there must be Forts and Settlements, or the Trade could not be carried on at all; but they ought to be built higher up, and in some Places they might go Twenty or Thirty Miles up the Rivers; that they might go still higher in Canoes, which the *Europeans* manage very expertly with a Year's Practice; and which draw about Six or Seven Inches Water.

That the Witness was about Eight Days at *Prince of Wales's Fort*, but did not see many *Indians* there; but believes a great many inhabit to the Northward of it; that he conversed with

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an *Indian*, who told him, that a Ship was cast away there, a great many Years ago, which supposed to be a *Danish* Ship.

That he has seen the Company's Servants punished, one whipp'd, and one put in Irons, for being drunk.

That, if the Trade was laid open, he does not think any body would go to settle there, nor would it be worth while for any Person of Property, except there was a Company; but he believes the Furriers would raise a Company; but, if full Liberty was allowed to trade, to be sure it must render the Company unable to keep up their Forts; and if the Company were to throw up their Forts, other People would set up the Trade: But there must be one or more Companies established; for if Persons do not reside all Winter in the Settlements, the *Indians* would report, they had left the Country, and that would spoil the Trade.

That if the present Company was broke, the Method which the Witness would propose to carry on the Trade, is to establish a new Company, who should build Forts in every River; but he cannot say whether, if Two Companies were established, One to trade to the North, and One to the South, there would be Trade enough to support them; but a small Trade might be carried on on the *East Main*, another on the *Severne*, and another on the *Frenchman's River*.

Being ask'd, Whether if the Company thought it for their Interest, they would not extend their Trade to those Places; he said, He could not tell; that to be sure Wood was very scarce and expensive at *New Severne*; that the Company formerly had a Fort there, which the Witness heard they abandoned for want of Wood; that the Company understand a great deal of their Affairs; but are frequently advised by their Governors and Factors, whose Interest is not always the same with that of the Company; for they have settled Salaries; and if the Trade is ever so much increased, he never knew any further Encouragement given to them.

That there are no Places proper for Settlements North of *Churchill*, *Wager River* being too cold; but a Ship might be sent to trade the *Eskimaux* for Oil and Fins; that he believes the Company take all the Oil and Fins they can get; but there are vast Numbers of White Whales, which afford as good Oil as the Black ones; and that the Witness himself got 18 Gallons of Oil from a young White Whale.

Being asked, Whether, if the Company were to lose this Trade, the *French* would not get it into their Hands before a new Company could be established; He said, he did not know.

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That

That the *Indians* are not suspicious, but apt to credit anybody; that they believe us whatever we say; and the Witness thinks, they would give the same Credit to Strangers.

Mr. *John Hayter* said, He had been House-Carpenter to the Company Six Years at *Moose River*, Three Years at *Churchill*, and Six Months at *Albany*; and knows no other Trade carried on there, but that of Furs.

That he has seen good Barley grow at *Moose River*, and helped the Person to dig his Ground, and sow it; that it produced about the Quantity of half a Bushel, which he saw rubbed out; that the Ear was large, and yielded as well, in the Opinion of the Witness, as the Barley sown on common Ground in *England*; that some of the Seed was sown the next Year, and it grew again; but the Witness did not see the Produce of it: And the Person told him, the Reason why he discontinued sowing Corn was, that the Governor hindered him: And the Witness further said, that he had made Hay at *Moose River*.

That the Witness had been Twelve Days Journey up *Albany River* to a Fort or Factory called *Henly-House*, which is 150 or 200 Miles up the River; that he saw large Trees there, but no Corn.

Being asked the Occasion of building *Henly-House*; he said, that the *Old leading Indian* had been used ill by the Governor, and brought Four *French Indians* from the Southerly to the Westerly River; upon which the Governor erected that Fort, to prevent the *French Trade*, who never traded there before that Season.

That the Climate is much warmer at *Henly-House* than at *Albany*; but they broke no Ground there, and consequently he can give no Account of the Frost; that they carried up nothing but Utensils, and met with but few Falls of Water, which they towed their Boats up; that they were forced to tow almost all Day long, the Stream being too rapid for Boats to sail, even in a fresh Gale; that 'tis impossible to tow the Boats with Horses, on account of the Badness of the Ground; but one Man tows a Canoe of 24 or 28 Feet long, and 4 Feet wide, which draws about 8 Inches Water, and will carry a great Weight; that the Falls in *Moose River* forced them to take out their Goods; that the Country about *Henly-House* is very high, but warmer than the Coast; that the Trees there are all white Fir, but do not produce Turpentine, nor are they fit for Masts; that he never saw any Ore, but has seen Copper on the *Indians* Wrists, which
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they told him they brought from the Northward; that there is no Grass at *Churchill*, except in Places up the River.

That he has seen large Tracts of Land, which, in his Opinion, would bear Corn, if cultivated, the Climate being much warmer within Land.

Being examined as to the Treatment of the Company's Servants; he said, that the last Year he was there, they were starved, tho' there were Victuals enough in the Storehouse; that there are Orders stuck up in the Factories, but he does not remember whether any Punishment, such as Lashing or Blows, are mentioned in those Orders; that the Governor beat one Man with his Cane for going to light his Pipe in an *Indian* Tent; and that Governor *Duffell* whipp'd Two Men, the one for trading for a Deer-skin, and the other for threatening to beat a young Fellow; that the first of these was tried on the Evidence of the Doctor; but he has heard the Governor say, he would whip a Man without Tryal; and that the severest Punishment is a Dozen of Lashes.

That one Man, whose Name was *Pilgrim*, died for want of Victuals, though there were Provisions enough in the Factory, and he had the same Allowance as the rest.

Being asked, What Quantity of Provisions are generally in the Factory; he said, A Year or a Year and a Half's Provisions.

That the Servants never applied for Liberty to hunt, when in Want of Provisions; and when this Man was starved, the Provision was not short.

And being asked, What the Allowance was; he said, They had Six Pounds of Flour a Week; that one Day they had Three Quarters of a Goose (which Geese weigh a Pound, a Pound and a Half, and some Geese Three or Four Pounds), together with half a Pint of Pease, and small Beer, when in the Factory, and Water when up in the Woods, with what Brandy the Governor pleases to give them; that, another Day, they had Three Partridges, of the same Size as ours, with Peas, as aforesaid; the Cheese and Butter is a Day's Allowance by itself, and they have Brandy up in the Woods; that when a Goose is boiled, it will not weigh a Pound; and they make no Difference as to the Size.

And being asked, How many Partridges he thinks would be sufficient for a Man a Day; he said, He thought, Four.

That he found no Fault with his Allowance at *Moose River*, where the Geese are better than at *Churchill*; and the first Year he was at *Churchill*, they used to have Two Pieces of Beef or Pork extraordinary in a Week; but upon the Arrival of a new Governor

vernor that was taken off, their Allowance being fixed by the Governor.

Being asked, If he had never petitioned the Company to go back in their Service? he said, that the Company stopped Five Pounds out of his Wages, for coming back a Year too soon.

That he was advised by a Gentleman of the City, who did not belong to the Company, that the only Way to get his Money was, to petition their Honours; and the Gentleman wrote a Petition accordingly, which the Witnesses copied; that his Intention in that Petition was, to get his Money; and that he never designed to go again.

And the Petition being produced and read, the Witnesses added,

That he wrote a Letter to the Company about Two Years ago, which he wished they would produce also.

Mr. *Matthew Gwynne*, being examined, informed your Committee, That he had been twice at *Hudson's Bay*; and that the Product of the Country is chiefly Furs; that he brought some Ore over to *England*, which he got out of a Sloop which the Company sent to the *Labrador Coast*; that the Person from whom he had the Ore told him he took it from the Surface of the Earth; that Mr. *Sedgwick*, a Surgeon, tried it, and said it was Lead Ore, and had a great deal of Silver in it; and that the Lead, only, was worth Ten or Twelve Pounds a Ton.

That the Person from whom he received the Ore is yet alive, as the Witnesses believes, having received a Letter from him about Six Months ago; and Mr. *Sedgwick*, and several Merchants, proposed to make a Subscription of Five hundred Pounds each, to send a Sloop to *Davis's Inlet*, and, if they failed there, to go through *Hudson's Streights* to the new-discovered Sea, where they thought that Ore was found; and there to see what they could get by Trade, or this Metal; that the Witnesses proposed to go through the Streights, and thought every Thing had been ready for the Undertaking; but it was soon after dropped.

That the Company sent Two Sloops to the *Labrador Coast*; the Name of the Master of the one was *Mitchell*, and the other *Longden*.

That the Witnesses was aboard a Ship in *Hudson's Bay* when those Two Sloops returned, and the Sloops came to that Ship before they went to the Governor; that one of the Mariners aboard one of the Sloops gave the Witnesses the Ore, and he was informed there was a Cask of it aboard; and the Person who
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gave it him told him, they brought it from *Labrador*, which he believes to be true; but can't swear it, as he did not take it up there himself.

That he can't say he understands Lead Ore, nor was he present at the Assay made by Mr. *Sedgwick*.

Mr. *Edward Thompson*, who had been Three Years at *Moose River* in the Company's Service as Surgeon, being required to give an Account of the Commodities, Soil, and Climate, there, said: That the chief Commodities are, Furs of Beavers, Martens, Foxes, and Bears; that there might be Whalebone and Oil brought from thence; that some Lead Ore was brought from *Labrador* by one *Banister*, who came home last Year, of which the Witnesses saw a Piece about the Bigness of his Fist: And the Witnesses said, he had seen Copper in *Hudson's Bay*: That there are White Pine-trees 40 Inches Diameter, and likewise Fish; that he has been on the Western Continent about 50 or 60 Miles Inland, and thinks the Soil and Climate at *Moose River* as proper for producing Beans, Peas, and Barley, as it is in several Parts in *Yorkshire*; that they dig and sow Peas in the Middle of *May*, when they can dig a Foot and a half, or two Feet, deep; but if you dig deep, even in *August*, the Frost is in the Ground: And that he apprehends the Ground about *Moose River* is proper for Hemp and Flax.

That he has seen better Barley and Oats grow at *Moose River*, than ever he saw in the *Orkneys*; but the Quantity sown was but very small, and the Seed would bear sowing again, but diminished in Goodness.

That there was Ground enough proper for this Corn, but never any Encouragement given for sowing it, but quite the reverse, the Governor absolutely forbidding it, for no other Reason, as the Witnesses apprehends, but that if Corn had been sown, a Colony would soon have been erected there; and he can't say whether that would be for the Advantage of the Proprietors; that the Witness himself sowed about Half a Dozen Corns of Wheat, for a Trial, in *October*, which lay in the Ground all Winter, covered with Snow, and came to Perfection in *August*. It was sown in a Piece of good Ground near the Root of a Tree, which was, in some measure, a Fence to it. And the Witness thinks, that Beans, Peas, Barley, and Oats, would grow there; that he never tried it any-where but at *Moose River*; but apprehends that Corn would grow in the Inland Countries at an Hundred Miles Distance, even as far North as *Fort Nelson*; for he has found the Climate warmer, the further you go Inland.

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That

That he thinks the Trade capable of Extension, for the following Reasons:

That he has been told by the Natives, that there are large Tracts of Ground, and a great Number of Skins, which they could bring, if a Factory should be established near those Countries; that some of the *Indians* can't come above once in two Years, being 500 Miles distant from the present Factories; that he has been informed, that *Henly House* has been pulled down, tho' the Company had a tolerable Trade there for the first Year, which was lost by the Governor abusing the chief *Indians*, as the Witness was informed; that he has seen the Governors use the *Indians* ill, not only in advancing upon them above the Standard of Trade, but beating and abusing them; but he does not know whether the Company in *London* have been informed of it; that he never had an Opportunity of acquainting the Company with it, nor did he write any Letters to them.

That the *Indians*, who have been so abused, have stayed away for two or three Years.

And being asked, If he knew for what Reason the Governors beat the *Indians*? he said, He remembered an Instance of two *Indians* almost starved, who came down aboard them, to get some Bread and Cheefe; upon which, the Governor took an Oar, and beat them most unmercifully; saying, "I'll teach you to go aboard without my Leave."

That the Governor could not imagine these *Indians* had been trafficking, since he knew they had not one Skin; and the Witness thinks his Reason for treating them in that Manner was, that the Governor apprehended they would give the Witness, and the rest, some Intelligence of the Country.

That the Witness never knew the *Indians* pilfer, except when hard put to it.

That the Trade may be carried on without a Company, but that there must be a Settlement, or House, erected, which he thinks it would be worth while for the Adventurers to do, tho' other People should make Use of it. The Witness himself, in his Opinion, could turn such House to great Advantage, both to himself and Masters; the Forts there not being erected for Defence, but only to lodge the Goods in: And that they would be in more Danger of being plundered by the *French*, than by the *Indians*, who would love the *Europeans*: That the *Indians* have told him of Lakes up in the Country, from whence Rivers come; that the present Forts are conveniently situated, but the Trade might be extended; but he never gave that as his Opinion, particularly, to the Governors, when he was in the Country, only
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when at *Moose River* he messed with Governor *Stanton*, and was of the Council; and they were all of Opinion, that new Settlements might be made, and the Trade extended.

That it would be expensive to carry Goods up and down from the Lakes; but that would be trebly repaid, as the Natives could make Three Trips a Year; that one Lake is distant to the Westward, as the Witness is informed, Two hundred Leagues, or thereabouts; that the Vessels employed to bring Goods from the Lakes at present, are small Birch Canoes, from 18 to 25 Feet long, and from One to Two Feet broad; but flat-bottomed Boats might go up, as the Witness is informed, 50 or 60 Leagues, and they would carry a great Weight.

That there are Beds of Stones in the Rivers, but the Boats might be haled over them by Men; for when the Inhabitants get large Quantities of Buffalo, or Deer-skins, they load them on Floats of Timber, which will carry 100 or 150 Tons, and bring them down; that some of these Falls are but a few Yards long; but he has seen one a Quarter of a Mile, over which there runs a Foot, or a Foot and a half Water; that no Stones can be seen above-water, and the Obstruction is only from the Rapidity of the Stream; and a Vessel carrying 50 Tons may fail with a Foot Water.

That he has heard, the *French Indians* carry their Canoes up the Falls; and that Boats may go up those Falls, and with the same Loading, as they come down.

That he has heard the Natives talk of a Sea to the Westward, which, by their Accounts, is not far distant; and of a Copper Mine, which lay on the Side of a Streight which takes them five Days in crossing; that they describe the Water of this Streight to be very deep, and that they could not reach the Bottom with two Deer-skins cut into Thongs: And if a Sloop could be brought along-side this Copper Mine, they say they could fill it in a little time. And, by their Account, this Streight has a Communication both with the Bay and the *South Sea*.

The Witness could not learn at what Distance this was from the Factory, nor did he inquire which Way the Tide set; but the *Indians* said, that the Water was deep and salt, and there were great Fish spouting up in it.

The Witness further informed your Committee, that he went with Captain *Middleton* on the Discovery of the *North-west Passage*, and likewise with the last Adventurers.

And being required to give the Committee an Account of what Treatment Captain *Middleton*, and the Persons under his Command, met with from the Company's Governors there; he said, that,

that, on their Entrance into *Hudson's Bay*, *Middleton* called a Council, and declared, as his Opinion, That it would be the most proper to winter there, in order to go on the Discovery early in the Spring: After that, he came to an Anchor in *Churchill River*, and invited the Governor, and others, to dine; when he said, "Gentlemen, You may look upon us as Interlopers, or Enemies; " but 'tis no such Thing; for I'll go the Voyage, and no one " but myself shall know whether there is a Passage, or not: " And I'll be a better Friend to the Company than ever."

These Words were repeated several Times, and the Witness imagines, that *Middleton*, by those Expressions, meant, that he did not intend to find a Passage: And it was the Opinion of the two Ships Crews, that, in his subsequent Voyage, he steered North-east, when he should have steered North-west, in order to prevent a Discovery.

That they took Two Northern *Indians* aboard *Middleton*, who, when he came to Lat. 63. steered Eastward, and the *Indians* said he was going the contrary Way. These *Indians* killed many Deer for him, during the Course of this Voyage; after which, Captain *Middleton* forced them out of his Ship with his own Hands, tho' they cried at his Treatment, and set them ashore in an Island: But the Witness has since heard, that they did not perish.

After this, the Ships wintered there, and the Governors were moderate enough.

That the Company gave them no Assistance to the Discovery; but he does not know, that any was applied for.

That upon the last Undertaking they met with great Obstructions; for, on coming towards the Shore, the Governor sent to cut down the Buoys, Beacons, and other Marks of Pilotage; tho' one of the Ships was aground, and the other far from being safe.

That, on their complaining of this Treatment, the Governor's Answer was, That he had Orders from his Masters not to suffer any Ships to come there but those of the Company, or his Majesty; that they had no private Signals, but had *English* Colours flying; and that they must know them to be Friends: For while they were cutting down the Beacons, they called to them to let them stand, while the other Ship was safe; but they persisted, saying, it was the Governor's Orders: And that the Governor himself sailed with them from *England*, and parted from them about 60 or 70 Leagues to the Westward of the *Orkneys*. And the Witness says, he never heard of any *Spanish* or *French* Privateers in the Bay during the late War; nor did he ever hear of any *East-India* Ships there.

That

That the Cable of their Sheet-Anchor was rendered almost useless by cutting it, which, they were told, was done by one of the Governor's Ladies.

That the Governor, upon their Petition, furnished them with a Long-boat, which they could have done very well without at the Price, as the Witness believes, of Ten or Twelve Guineas, tho' she was scarce fit for any thing but Fire-wood: There was no other Boat to be had there, nor was any Bargain made for her; but they told the Governor he should be satisfied, and she was to be paid for in *England*: That the furnishing them with this Boat was a Favour, but the Price demanded for it was an Imposition.

But, being asked the Question, he said, He did not know whether ever the Money had been paid.

That if they had had Liberty to trade, they could have subsisted without the Assistance of the Company, whose Treatment of them was not civil, but quite the reverse, in cutting down the Buoys and Beacons, and preventing them from getting Shoes, Coats, and other Materials to keep them warm, which they did by sending People to prevent their trading, and sending their *Indians* away, which, they were told by the Company's Servants, was done, that they should not get Provisions.

That the Governor supplied them with Shoes and Foggys, that is, Beaver Coats; but one Pair of Shoes is not sufficient for the Winter, and the Witness himself was allowed no more: That when they had great Numbers of Men sick of the Scurvy, they were told by the Natives that there were great Quantities of Deer killed and laid on Stages, which the Governor would not suffer to be brought down, that they might not enjoy the Benefit of them: Upon which the Witness said he wrote several Letters to the Governor, who, in a Month or Six Weeks, agreed to let them have Venison in exchange for Beef and Pork: That they carried some Small Beer from *England*, and dug Holes without the Factory to preserve it; but that the Governor had permitted some of their dry Provisions to be laid up in the Factory.

That the Governor allowed them Two *Indians* in the Spring to kill Geese and Partridges; but they were the very worst he had, and did not kill enough for the Captain's Mess; and that they consumed more Provisions and Brandy than their Geese and Partridges were worth.

That he believes the Reasons why they were prohibited from conversing with the *Indians*, was for Fear of carrying on a clandestine Trade, the same Orders being given to the Company's own Servants: That they had no Orders not to trade, but did

not trade at all with these *Indians*; but had a little Trade with the *Eskimaux* for Bone and Oil, who, if they were properly encouraged, would get enough of these two Commodities to load a Ship or two every Year.

Being examined as to the Probability of a North-West Passage; he said he had the greatest Reason to believe there is one, from the Winds, Tides, and Black Whales; and he thinks the Place to be at *Chesterfield's Inlet*: That the Reason of their coming back was, they met the other Boat, which had been Five Leagues further, and the Crew told them the Water was much fresher and shallower there; but where the Witness was, the Water was Fifty Fathom deep, and the Tide very strong; the Ebb Six Hours, and the Flood Two, to the best of the Witness's Remembrance: That it is not common for the Tide to flow only Two Hours; but he imagines it to be obstructed by another Tide from the Westward; that the Rapidity of the Tide upwards was so great, that the Spray of the Water flew over the Bow of the Schooner; and was so salt, that it candied upon the Mens Shoes, but that the Tide did not run in so rapid a Manner the other Way.

That he tasted the Water brought down by the other Boat, as well as the Water where the Witness was; that the one was as salt as the main Ocean, and the other not near so salt.

Being asked, If they did not steer North-west, the last time where *Middleton* steered North-east? he said, they did not go so far as *Middleton* in *Repulse Bay*; but that the Witness went up *Wager River* till he could have waded over it.

Being asked, If the *Indians* speak *English*? he said, Very few; that he, the Witness, undertook to teach an *Indian* Boy, and Governor *Stanton* ordered him to desist; adding, that he had a general Order from the Company, to all the Factories, that none of the Natives should be instructed at all; that there are about 28 *Europeans* in the Factory; but they have no Clergyman, nor Divine Worship of any kind; the Witness never heard Sermon or Prayers there, nor ever heard of any such thing, either before his Time or since.

Enoch Alfop, who had been Armourer to the Company at *Moose River*, informed your Committee, that he had sowed Barley and Oats there, the same Seed, Three Years successively, and that it grew very well; that he sowed a Handful or Two of Barley and Oats at first, mixed with Dust and Ashes, which produced Two or Three Quarts, or a Gallon of Barley; and he thinks in the Third Year, he had above half a Bushel; and then
Governor

Governor *Stanton* forbad him to sow any more, but gave no Reason for such Prohibition; that he never saw any *Indian* Corn grow there, but has seen Pigeons killed with it in their Crops; that he has lived in the Company's Service Ten Years, and was always well treated by all the Governors; that he has heard People complain of ill Usage, but never saw any such thing, in regard either to the *Europeans* or *Indians*, being greatly confined with his Work; that the Allowance of Victuals was Six Pounds of Flour a Week, and sometimes Four Geese; sometimes Six or Seven, as the Geese were in Size, some weighing but a Pound, others Six, Seven, or Eight Pounds; that they had sometimes half a Goose a Day; and when allowed Venison, they were allowed about Three Pounds a Day: When the Provision was Partridges, they were allowed Two or Three a Day, some of which weigh above a Pound; that the *Indians* frequently bring their Arms to mend; and the Musquets furnished them by the Company, are worth above 20 Shillings apiece; that they frequently burst, not from the Fault of the Gun, but by overcharging, or from Snow getting into the Muzzle.

Christopher Bannister, who had been Armourer and Gunsmith to the *Hudson's Bay Company*, and had resided in the Bay about 22 Years, informed your Committee, That he had seen Lead-Ore at *Moose River*, which came from the Northward, but he can't say whence; that he had seen a good Quantity of it, and some of it tried by Mr. *Longdon's* Apprentice; and it seemed extraordinary good Lead, and the Boy made a Pair of Buckles of it.

That the Witnesses can't say what Proportion the Lead bears to the Ore; only the Boy put in a Piece of Ore as big as a Man's Fist, and got Lead enough to make a Pair of large Buckles; and that the Witnesses is sure nothing was put in but the Ore, none being present but himself, and the Boy who brought it down; that this was about Three Years ago; and that he never saw any Lead-Ore at any other time.

That he has seen Copper frequently brought down by the Northern *Indians*, a Piece of which he produced to your Committee; and said, He had seen great Quantities of it there; and was informed by a young Man, who is now at *Hudson's Bay*, that the *Indians* told him, that it was brought from a Mine, in Search of which the young Man would gladly have gone.

That the Trade of the Country consists chiefly in Furs; but the *Indians* bring down Feathers and Deer-skins likewise; and they get some Whalebone from the *Eskimaux*, going from the
Streights;

Streights; that he never knew any Commodities brought by the *Indians*, that were refused by the Company; but that if the *Indians* were better used, the Company might have more Trade; for the Factors don't give them a sufficient Price, and then they growl and grumble.

And being asked, Whether in that case they come again? he said, Not always; but some are forced to come, because there are no others to trade with; that he believes, if other People were suffered to trade, they would not come to the Company, because they use them ill.

And when they meet with the *French*, they dispose of the best of their Goods to them, and bring their Refuse to the Company; that he can't say at what Distance the *French* lie; but apprehends they send People, and lay wait for, and stop the *Indians*, and take the best of their Goods.

And being asked, Whether the Company did not give a better Price to the *Indians* than formerly for their Furs? he said, He believed not; for that he himself had been ordered, to shorten the Measure for Powder, which ought to be a Pound, and within these 10 Years has been reduced an Ounce or two.

That the Company had more Trade formerly than now; and though he never saw the *French* Furs, yet 'tis plain they have the small Furs, as he has been informed by the Linguists, who were told by the Natives, that the *French* use them better, and give them a better Price; so that we deal chiefly in Beaver.

The Martens and Foxes are the most valuable Furs, and the Cat-skins are very good; that the Natives trade out for very little Beaver with the *French*; but he has seen the *Indians* come down in fine *French* Cloaths, with as much Lace upon them as ever he saw upon any Cloaths whatsoever.

That he has seen a great many *Indians* in laced Cloaths without Shoes or Stockings.

That he believes, that if the Company would give as much for the Furs as the *French*, the *Indians* would bring them; and if the Company were willing, they have a sufficient Stock to purchase small Furs; but 'tis not the Interest of the Company to pay 10,000 *l.* for 30 or 40,000 *l.* worth of Goods, when they can have Goods to that Value for 5000 *l.*

Being examined as to the Usage he received from the Company; he said, It was very indifferent, being sometimes treated with bad Victuals, and sometimes with bad Language; that he wrote several times to the Company to come home but was refused.

Being asked, Why he desired to go back; he said, that was upon another Account; that the Master of the Factory had wrote

an

an Account to the Company, that the Witness had not behaved himself well, and he desired to be examined Face to Face with him; that he did throw in a Line or Two, but he did it to clear himself from a false Accusation; that he cannot remember the Words, but one of the Company's Clerks wrote it for him, and the Clerk wrote as he thought proper; and the only Reason that he sent in that Paper was to gain Admittance into the Committee-room.

That the Complaint against him was refusing to do his Duty; but that the Company sent for him the Year before he threw in that Paper, to take him into their Service, which he refused; that he really does not know what that Paper contained; but he thinks he did not express any Desire to go to *Hudson's Bay*, but is not certain; and that he would not go now for 100*l.* a Year.

Robert Griffin, a Silversmith, who had been Five Years in the Company's Service, said, that he melted down Six Ounces of Ore, which was brought from the *East Main*, by Captain *Mitchell*, and which produced about Two Ounces of Lead; that he did this by the Order of *Joseph Isbester* the Factor or Governor of *Albany*, who is now at *Churchill Fort*; that the Governor stood by him while he made the Trial, and that the Witness can swear 'tis good Lead; that the Witness told the Governor 'twas pity that Captains did not take in this Lead Ore for Ballast instead of Stones: To which the Governor replied, That they did not want any such Discovery; but he cannot tell whether *Isbester* informed the Company of this Transaction; that the Governor ordered the Witness to try if he could extract Silver from the Ore; who told him he had not proper Instruments to make such Experiment: To which the Governor answered, That the Company had no Occasion for it, for that they wanted Encouragement for nothing but their Furs; that he imagines there are great Quantities of Ore on the *East Main*, having known several Quantities brought from thence from One to Fifteen Pounds Weight; and he is further confirmed in that Opinion from the Report of the *Indians* (whose Language he understands), who have told him, that there were great Quantities of Ore on the *East Main*; that he imagines the Trade in Ore would be as advantageous as that in Furs, there being Wood enough in the Country to smelt it; nor would it interfere at all with the Fur Trade, only more Hands must be employed.

That he thinks the Trade to *Hudson's Bay* capable of being extended, which must cause a greater Consumption of *European* Goods; but for that Purpose proper Settlements must be made: And if a Colony was once settled there, they might trade in

Huts, as the *French* do, and there would be no Danger of the *Indians* attacking them; but if a Colony was fettled an Hundred Miles up the Country, he believes the *Indians* would not come to the Bay at all.

That the Witness has been informed, that the Soil, One hundred Miles up the Country, would produce Corn: That he has seen Oats grow to Perfection at *Albany*.

That he has also seen Peas, Beans, Turneps, Sallading and Cabbage, and some few Carrots: That the Beans are generally blighted; but the Turneps, Peas and Cabbage, are in great Plenty and Perfection, but they have fresh Seed sent over every Year: That the Land is cultivated for about a Mile round *Albany* Fort, being dug with Spades upon the breaking of the Frost, which generally happens about the 20th or 27th of *April*.

And being asked the Question, he said, that if he had a Grant of One hundred Acres of Land, and Liberty to trade, he would settle there with all his Heart.

That the *French* intercept the Trade; to prevent which the Company some time ago built *Henly House*, which did in some measure answer the Purpose; but if they would build further in the Country, it would have a better Effect.

That the *French* went there first, and are better beloved; but if we would go up into the Country, the *French Indians* would trade with us.

Thomas Barnett, Smith, says, He went over to *Albany* in the Year 1741, when he saw some Ore there, which, as he was informed, was brought from the East Main: That this Ore, being in Quantity about half a Pound, was brought to him by the Governor Mr. *Isbester*, and the Master of a Sloop, in order to be tried: That it was once melted, and upon trying it with a Hammer it was hard; but upon melting it again, it appeared like common Lead: Upon which the Governor, addressing himself to the Master of the Sloop, said, If there is enough of this, it will make brave Ballast for Ships; but that the Witness did not hear the Master's Answer: That he supposes Crucibles were sent from *England*, at the Governor's Request, to make the afore-said Experiment.

And being asked, If he knew any Person who was aboard the Vessel that brought over the said Ore? he said he knew one *Archibald Slater*, who he was informed was aboard that Sloop, and whom he believed to be now in *England*.

Mr.

Mr. *Alexander Browne*, who has been Six Years in the Company's Service at *Hudson's Bay* as Surgeon, informed your Committee, that he has seen both Copper and Copper-Ore at *Prince of Wales's Fort* in *Churchill River*, which the Northern *Indians* informed the Witness they brought from an Isthmus of Land, which lies by a Lake at the farthest Extent of their Country: That 'tis hard to ascertain the Distance from the Accounts of the *Indians*, but that 'tis judged to be about Three or Four hundred Miles: That he never heard the *Indians* say whether there was a Passage to this Place from the Bay by Water, but they informed him their River ran by it.

That they bring down the Copper for Ornaments; and that they brought down the Ore at the Request of Governor *Norton*: But that the Witness does not know whether any of it was sent to *England*, or whether any Trial was made of it there: That he has seen about Four or Five Pounds of it, both before it was smelted, and after; and he takes it to be a rich Ore, but does not understand Metals. That he has heard of Lead-Ore at *Hudson's Bay*, but never saw any.

That he never saw the *Indians* smelt it; but they informed him, that the Earth was washed from the Ore by Showers, and that they smelt it on a Fire till it runs, and then beat it, it being very malleable: That he never heard of a Copper Mine on the large Arm of the Sea, but the Ore is brought down by Canoes to the open Sea; and that the Rivulet which washes the said Copper is not known to have any Communication with *Hudson's Bay*, the Mine being about Fifteen Miles from the open Sea, by the Accounts of the *Indians*.

That they might bring the Ore in their Canoes to *Churchill River*; but the Witness can't say whether the Company's Sloops could go within Fifteen or Sixteen Miles of the Mine, since there are frequent Shoals in those Seas: But Canoes may come down to meet the Vessels; for the Ice makes the Water so smooth, that a Canoe can live Thirty Leagues from Shore. That he apprehends the *Indians* come a little to the Northward of *Whale-Cove*, which bears a Point or two to the West of the North from *Churchill*.

That if the *Indians* were encouraged, they would bring great Quantities of Ore, as well as smelted Copper, to *Whale-Cove*; and that a Pound and a Half of Ore would, in the Opinion of the Witness, produce a Pound of pure Metal. That if Persons were sent up to the Mine, they might smelt the Ore there; but they would labour under a Difficulty for Want of Fuel, the
Country

Country producing no Wood; and what the *Indians* smelt, they do in small Quantities with Mofs.

That the Country about the Mine is only inhabited in the Fishing Season; and that he apprehends it produces Furs: And that he never heard the Company offer to trade with the *Indians* for Copper: That the Rivulet which runs by the Mine runs into the Sea; and that he apprehends there is a Communication betwixt this Sea and *Whale-Cove*: That he has heard the late Mr. *Norton* (who was the first that brought the Northern *Indians* to trade, being sent among them for that Purpose by the then Governor) say, that he had been at this Mine, and that a considerable Quantity of Copper might be brought down: That the *Indians* will carry their Canoes, as the Witness believes, about Four or Five Miles over Land, but they often leave their Canoes and go within Land: That on Mr. *Norton's* being sent to the Northern *Indians*, a small Trade was carried on, which has been improved of late Years, but nothing to what it might be by giving the Encouragement of a greater Price: But Mr. *Norton* never told the Witness why the Copper Trade was not carried on.

That the Company buy all the Goods that are brought, the *Indians* having no other Market; but that if they allowed them a better Price, they would certainly bring down more.

That several of the *Indians* come down yearly, but others will not till Necessity drive them; but the Northern *Indians* are more industrious than the others, and would come down as often as the Season would permit: That they live chiefly on Fish, and carry their Goods generally upon their Shoulders: That the Company trade to *Whale-Cove* every Year with a Sloop, but sometimes find no *Indians* there: And that the Witness never heard of those *Indians* trading with any other than *British* Subjects.

Being asked, What other Minerals he had seen there, he said he had seen large Quantities of Red Earth, which is got about Thirty-six Miles to the Southward of *Churchill* River: That he had tried some of it in a Crucible, and found it to contain a heavy metallic Substance, like Cinnabar, and a Fluid like Quick-silver: That this Trial was only to satisfy his Curiosity, having received no Orders to make it; but the Governor was present at the Experiment: And upon the Witness representing his Surprise to him, that the Company did not endeavour to improve these Discoveries, the Governor answered, that he was likewise surpris'd that they did not.

That

That he apprehends, that by opening the Trade, more Ore, as well as Furs, would be brought, the *French* intercepting the Southern *Indians*, and by that means obtaining the valuable Furs: And that he has been informed by the *Indians*, that the *French Canadese Indians* come within Sixscore Miles of the *English* Factories: That he never heard any *Indians* speak *French*, but several of our old Traders will get a few Words of *English*: And that the *French Indians* come to *Albany* to trade for their heavy Goods.

That he heard the aforesaid Mr. *Norton* say, that the *French* run away with our Trade; and that the Way to prevent it would be to make Peace between the two *Indian* Nations, which would bring down the *Indians* to trade. That the Company make Presents to the *Indians* to encourage them to trade, which sometimes succeeds, and sometimes only induces them to leave one Fort, in order to trade at another: And that if the Trade was opened, the *French* would not intercept the *Indians*, since in that case the separate Traders must have Out-factories in the same manner the *French* have, which the Company have not: And that he never heard of *Henly House*; but that there may be such a Place.

That the Trade could not be enlarged without Forts and Settlements, by which the Witness said he meant Houses of Timber, guarded with Iron Palisadoes, to prevent their being set on Fire, which would be sufficiently defensible with Small Arms only; and that such Settlements might be erected up *Churchill* River.

And being asked, In case those Out-settlements were erected, whether the same Trade could be carried on at the present Settlements? he said, That was impossible: But the Trade would be extended; as by that Means they would take it from the *French*: That if these Settlements were near the *French*, they must have Garrisons to secure them against the *French*, and the *Indians*, who trade with, and are in Friendship with them (whom he distinguished by the Name of *French Indians*); but that would be no great Expence; Twenty or Thirty Men in a Settlement being sufficient for that Purpose.

That the *French* do not, nor can they give the same Encouragement to the *Indians*, that the *English* do; but they force them to trade, by intercepting them; when they take what they please, giving them Toys in Exchange; and fright them into Compliance by Tricks of Slight of Hand; from whence the *Indians* conclude them to be Conjurers: But that the *English* give them a better Price.

And being examined, he said, That he never saw the *French* Standard; but is acquainted with that of the Company.

That the *French* rate Two Martens, as he is informed, at a Beaver; which, by the Company's Standard, is rated at Three.

Being then asked, How the Company could be said to give a better Price than the *French*? he said, He knew nothing of the *French* Trade but by Reading, and the Information he received from the *Indians*; who told him, that the *English* give better Measure, both of Gunpowder and Tobacco: And if the *French* did not compel the *Indians* to trade, they would certainly bring all their Goods down to the *English*.

But that if the Trade was laid open, the *French* would be deprived of that Opportunity; as in that Case there would be a superior Number of *English* to guard the Trade.

That he heard the *Indians* tell Governor *Norton*, in the Year 1739. that the *French* had a Settlement at about the Distance of One hundred or Sixscore Miles from *Churchill*, which had then been built about a Year, and contained Sixty Men with Small Arms: But he does not know whether the Governor made a Report of this to the Company, nor did the Witnesses ever acquaint them with it: But that the Witness was informed by an *Indian*, and his whole Family, that this Settlement was upon *Seel* River, which was navigable up to it for Canoes.

That he thinks the Trade at *Churchill* has increased within these Ten Years; which he attributes to the Northern *Indians* coming to the Fort.

Being asked, If he was acquainted with the Climate of the *Semi-Poets*? he said, That he had heard Governor *Norton*, who had been there, say, that they were Strangers to Snow-shoes.

And being asked, If he was sure that the *French* Settlement, which he mentioned to be at about Sixscore Miles distant, was not at the Distance of Three hundred, or even Twelve hundred Miles? he said, He was sure it was not, by the *Indians* walking from thence; that they are about Three Weeks coming, and may walk about Twelve Miles a Day, or just as they happen to be loaded.

And he informed your Committee, That he had never been examined in this Affair before; nor had any Questions been asked him about it before his present Examination.

Captain *Thomas Mitchell*, who had commanded a Sloop of the Company's, said, He had brought something from the *East Main* resembling Lead-Ore; but that he is not a Judge of it; that he gathered this himself from the Surface of the Earth, and picked some

some few Pieces from off the Rocks; and that perhaps he might, with great Trouble, have got a Boat-Load of it; but that he made no Attempt to break into the Rocks; and that the Veins of this Ore were about an Inch broad: That he never heard any Account of it but from the *Indians*, who carry it about them to black their Faces, which induced the Governor to send him and others on the Discovery; that they brought about Half a hundred Weight of it, and some of it was sent to the Company in *England*; and that, on shewing it to the Governor in the Bay, he made no Account of it, but every-body thought it was Lead-Ore; that he went no further than 56 Degrees Lat. tho' he had Instructions for going further; but he thought it dangerous, and the Country was barren; that the Currents are very rapid, and there are great Numbers of Islands and Rocks, between which the Tide sets very strong.

That he saw several Veins of this Ore, but thinks it not worth while to attempt the getting it, from the Difficulty that would attend the Undertaking; it lying among the Rocks, where Carriages could not come: But of that Affair he is no Judge.

That he has tried to melt it, and it runs into a heavy drossy Cinder; but he never conversed with any Person who understood it.

That he never heard of any Opening to the Northward of the *East Main*.

That he has been at *Whale-Cove*, but does not understand the *Indian* Language; that he was a Year at the Northernmost Factories, where he heard mention made of Copper.

And being asked, If the Company trade in Copper unmanufactured? he said, They did not; but that he had seen the *Indians* with Metal Ornaments about their Arms, which they told him they made from old Kettles.

And being shewn a Piece of Copper, which was produced to your Committee as an *Indian* Bracelet; he said, He never saw one so thick as that; nor were those he had seen of the same Colour.

That when the Witness went upon this Discovery, he had no particular Instructions in regard to Mines, but general Orders to make any Discoveries that might be of Advantage to the Company; and if he had succeeded, he does not doubt but they would have rewarded him: And that he believes the Company encourage Discoveries, and promote Trade, to the utmost of their Power. And he thinks the Trade at *Albany* and *Moose River* (the only Places the Witness is acquainted with) is carried on to the best Advantage, and incapable of further Improvement or Extension.

That

That they have twice attempted to raise Corn, without Success. And being asked, What Time that Corn was sown? he said, In *June*; but that the Ground is thawed a Foot deep in *May*, at which Time you may sow Corn; but that the Ground is so cold; it spoils the Seed: That the Frost returns in *August* or *September*, and he has known it set in the latter End of *October*; that Turneps and Peas are sown in *May*, and come to Perfection in *August* or *September*: And he does not know whether the Frost breaks sooner within Land, or not; but at the Bottom of the *Bay* it breaks the Third or Fourth of *May*.

And being asked, If he was settled there, whether he thinks it would answer to sow Corn? he said, That every Chief has Liberty to do it, and it would certainly be very advantageous; that he can't give an Instance of Encouragement given by the Company to any one Man for such Improvement; nor does he know of any Person being discouraged from such an Undertaking.

That he never heard of a *French* Settlement up *Churchill River*, nor up *Seel River*; but as the latter lies at the Bottom of the *Bay*, at a great Distance from where the Witness resided, there might be such a Thing, and he not hear of it.

That there was a *French* Settlement in *Albany River*, which was soon destroyed, by erecting *Henly House*, the *French* Settlement being no more than a Tent; that Trade has been carried on ever since at *Henly House*, which lies Two hundred Miles up the Country, during the Winter-Season; and the War with *France* breaking out soon after, the Witness has heard no more of the *French*.

Arthur Dobbs, Esq; being examined as to the Information he had received from a *French Canadese Indian* (since deceased), and who was maintained at the Expence of the Admiralty, on a Prospect of his being of Service on the Discovery of a *North-west Passage*, informed your Committee, That the Whole of that Discourse is contained in Part of a Book printed for the Witness in the Year 1744. to which he desired Leave to refer.

And being asked, If that Part of the Book contained nothing but the Discourse with the *Indian*, without any Remarks or Observations? he said, It did not contain any Thing else but his Questions, and the Answers of the *Indian*.

That the Method he used in taking down the said Discourse, was as follows.

He asked the *Indian* the Questions contained in that Narrative, to which he gave Answers in *French*, which the Witness translated

lated into *English*, and reduced each Answer immediately into Writing.

That he did not read these Answers over to him; but, to make Trial of his Veracity, he frequently repeated the same Questions, at the Distance of a Fortnight, and never could find the least Variation in his Account; but that he thinks he has not taken Notice of this Method in his Narrative: That the Witnesses omitted nothing in the Narrative which he thought material to the Knowledge of Trade, or of the Country; and that the Minutes which he took from the Mouth of this *Indian*, are printed, Word for Word, in the aforefaid Book, which the Witnesses himself carefully compared with his Minutes.

And being asked, If he could produce those original Minutes? he said, That he had destroyed them; not thinking it material to keep them after the Book was printed.

Then the said Book was produced to your Committee, and Part thereof, from Fol. 29. to Fol. 45. was read; to which (the said Book being annexed to this Report by way of Appendix, No. 2.) your Committee beg Leave to refer.

And being asked, What was the Character of this *Indian*? he said, He had a very good one in Town; and that Captain *Middleton* told him his Character in general was good; that he never heard any thing to the Prejudice of it, except that he was obliged to quit his own Country for carrying on a counterband Trade.

And being asked, How this *Indian* could make a Calculation of the Profits arising by the Fur Trade, or how it was possible he should use an Expression, which was set down in the Narrative, of *gaining 2000 per Cent.*? he said, That he, the Witnesses, told him the Prices of Goods here; and that the *Indian* himself knew the Prices of Goods in his own Country, from the Comparison of which the Witnesses formed the Calculation which he explained to the *Indian*, who agreed that it was right. And being asked, If he desired the *Indian* to confine himself to his own Knowledge? he said, That all the *Indian* said was from his own Knowledge, except where it is mentioned otherwise in the Narrative; as in the Voyage to the Westward in the latter End of it, and in some other Places.

Captain *William Moore* acquainted your Committee, That he had been employed in *Hudson's Bay* from a Boy; that he went with Captain *Middleton* to discover a *North-west Passage*, and likewise with the last Adventurers on that Discovery.

And being required to inform your Committee what Treatment the late Discoveries received from the Company's Officers

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in *Hudson's Bay*? he said, That as soon as Mr. *James Isham*, the Governor of *York Fort* (who sailed from *England* in Company with the Witness and the rest of the Discoverers, and parted from them three or four Days after they left the *Orkneys*), perceived their Ships coming from *Hayes's River*, he mann'd a Boat, and took away the Buoys, and cut down the Beacon; by which Means the *Dobbs Galley*, which the Witness commanded, run aground, and the *California*, the other Ship in Company, was not then at Anchor.

That the next Day the Witness received a Letter from the Governor, to advise him, out of Regard for his own, and the Safety of the rest of the People with him, that they would not attempt that River with Ships, Vessels, or Boats; for he would do his utmost Endeavours to prevent them.

That at this Time the Witness, and the other Commander, had not signified to the Governor that they were *English* Ships, no Letters or Messages having passed between them; and the Governor's Letter, which was brought on board by his Carpenter, and some others, was directed to the two Commanders of the Ships lying off the River's Mouth.

Upon the Receipt of this Letter, the Discoverers held a Council, and came to a Resolution to return an Answer that they made choice of that Place to winter in, it being too late to go to any other. This occasioned a second Letter from the Governor, advising the Adventurers rather to make choice of *Churchill* to winter at; and desiring and insisting that they should send him a proper Power, either from the Company, or the Government; or otherwise they should not be admitted to receive Shelter there. This Request the Adventurers complied with, and sent the Governor their Letters of Marque; after which they had no Molestation from the Governor: That the Commander of the other Ship, and the Witness, went up to see the Governor, and were employed several Days to look for a proper Harbour for their Ships; that the Governor supplied them with Wood, Lime, and Bricks, to build an House, where they lived during the Winter. He likewise furnished them with Beaver-Coats for the Men, and what other Things they wanted; that he gave them a Leather Tent to make Shoes of, and, in general, treated them well, and in a friendly Manner.

That the Witness lent the Governor Five or Six Men most of the Winter; and Captain *Smith*, Commander of the other Ship, and his Wife, resided in the Factory, as Visitors, about two Months.

That

That some of the Witness's Men dug a Cellar in the Factory, in which they put some of their Beer and Cheefe.

And being asked, Whether, at their first Approach, the Governor did not apprehend they had an Intent to trade, or whether he knew them to be employed on the Discovery? he said, That the Governor was aboard the *Dobbs* about two Days before they departed from *England*, and knew what they were going upon; that it was the common Discourse, both of the Company's Officers, and the Adventurers, that the Governor knew them very well.

That the Witness had asked Mr. *Isham* the Reason of his Conduct; who answered, That he had done nothing but what he could answer to his Masters, but did not say that he did not know who the Adventurers were.

That the Witness believes, that the Reason of that Treatment was, an Apprehension that they designed to trade, Mr. *Isham* knowing that they had Goods aboard for that Purpose; tho' the Witness never heard it said, that that was the Reason: But in his second Letter to the Governor he gave it under his Hand, That he had no Intent to Trade; and was then received in the Manner before described.

That the Witness had Goods aboard proper for the Trade, which were necessary to make Presents to the Natives, as well as to supply the Ships Companies with Provisions.

That the Witness had solicited the Governor, several times, for fresh Provisions, without Success; the Governor alleging, that they had none; when, at the same time, he was informed, that there were Deer lying killed up in the Country: Upon which, he wrote a smart Letter to the Governor, informing him, That if he refused to supply him, he would send Men out, and take them by Force: Upon which, the Governor supplied him with Venison.

That he does not know whether the Adventurers paid for these Provisions; but they gave them salt Provisions in Exchange for fresh.

That they had Three *Indians* allowed by the Governor to hunt for them in the Spring, but none in Autumn; and they had some, likewise, allowed to hunt Partridges for them after *Christmas*.

And being asked, If there was any Report spread of a pestilential Distemper among them? he said, He had Reason to think some Reports of that Kind had been spread, from the Natives not coming near them; but they were without Foundation.

Being also asked, If it was not usual to take away the Beacons and Buoys every Year? he said, He believes it is, when all the
Ships

Ships are come in ; but at the time the Governor took them down there was a Sloop to come from *Churchill*.

Being required to give the Committee an Account of what Discoveries they made in the Voyage ; he said, They discovered several large Rivers between 62 and 64 Degrees Lat. some of which were Six or Seven Leagues wide ; but that they did not go up any great Distance, having tried and found the Tide of Flood set into the Rivers.

That the further Northward they went, the sooner the Flood, and the greater the Flow ; and that a North-west Wind raises the Water the most.

Being examined as to the Climate, Soil, and Trade, at the Bottom of the Bay ; he informed your Committee, That he had eat Beans, Peas, and Turneps, produced at *Moose River* ; that he is satisfied the Trade is capable of being extended, by erecting little Huts within Land, which would answer the Purpose of Forts, there being no Danger from the Natives ; the People at *Henry House* not being above Six or Seven, and they live very quiet.

That he has been informed, by People whom he desired to ask that Question of the Natives, That the Trade might be extended ; and the Person who was set to watch the late Adventurers, that they should not trade, informed them, That the *French* intercepted the *Indians* in their coming down, but he never heard that the Company refused to take their Goods ; that there are not any Settlements on *Labrador Coast* ; and he has been informed, Settlements might be erected there.

That the Company have no Settlements on *New Severne River*, which has always been accounted a good Place, nor on *Rupert's River*.

And being asked, If the Company would not keep more Men on *Slude River*, if it would turn to Account ? he said, He could not say : He had heard it as the Opinion of several People, that the Company endeavoured to keep a quiet handsome Trade ; and think it their Interest to keep it to themselves ; that he believes they might carry on a much greater Trade, but that would make more Noise, and be an Encouragement to Interlopers, by which, he said, he meant, *English* separate Traders ; that he is not a competent Judge of what Stock the Company could employ, but is certain the Trade is capable of further Extension, particularly in the Fishery, by which a considerable Trade in Bone and Oil might be carried on ; that the Witness has seen several Whales, and found One, killed by the *Indians*, in the *Bay*, out of which he took some Bone.

That

That he has likewise seen Copper brought from the Northward to *Churchill*, but the *Indians* were never encouraged to bring Quantities.

Being asked, How the *Indians* killed the Whales? he said, With a Harpon of their own making; but if our Harponeers were there, they would kill many more.

And being asked, If he would choose to go to *Hudson's Bay* to fish for Whales? he said, If he was to go a Whale-fishing, he would go to *Greenland*; but that he could carry on the Fur Trade in *Hudson's Bay* at the same time, and the *Indians* would kill the Whales; that the Company allow their Captains an Encouragement of 25*l. per Cent.* for all the Whalebone they bring over, but he does not know of any Encouragement given to any other of the Company's Servants.

That they send a Sloop, sometimes for Two or Three Years together, to *Whale-Cove*, and sometimes not above One in Three Years, which disappoints the *Indians*; who, if the Sloop went annually, would forecast to be there: And that he don't believe they send this Sloop on receiving Intelligence, that the *Indians* have Bone and Oil for them, since they cannot converse with them.

And being asked, Whether he believed there was a *North-west Passage* to the *South-Seas*? he said, He believes there is a Communication; but whether navigable, or not, he cannot say; that if there is any such Communication, 'tis further Northward than he expected; that if it is but short, as 'tis probable to conclude from the Height of the Tides, 'tis possible it might be navigable; and it was the Opinion of all the Persons sent on that Discovery, that a North-West Wind made the highest Tides.

Mr. *Henry Sparling*, Merchant, informed your Committee, That he had traded chiefly in Furs for Twenty-eight Years past, during which Time he had dealt with the *Hudson's Bay Company*, and was a Proprietor of the said Company, having 330 *l.* Stock there, according to the Rate the Stock is now valued at.

Being asked, If the Company did not increase their Stock in 1720. and for what Reason? he said, He had no Hand in the Affair, nor can assign any Reason, except that they had a Factory burnt down some Years ago; but that he apprehends it could not be to make a Bubble of it, since none of their Stock ever came to Market: That the Company dealt in Bear, Cat, Fox, Otter, and some few Raccoon Skins, and that the Furs they import are the best that are brought into *Europe* from *America*, being much preferable to the *French Canada* Furs; that this is to be imputed to the Situation of the Company's Settlements,

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which are further North than the *French*, and consequently the Furs more valuable: That the *French* carry on their Trade by the *Courier de Bois*, but the Furs are not liable to be damaged by that Method, the Witnesses having seen several Magazines of *French* Furs in *Holland*, as well as great Quantities of the same Furs taken in the late War, none of which were at all damaged.

That the Witness has exported Furs during all the time he has been in Trade, as well *French* Furs as those of the Company, and that the *Hudson's Bay* Furs always fell best; but the *Canada* Furs are well worth importing, except their Squirrel-Skins, which are good for nothing; and that the Difference in Value between the *Canada* and the *Hudson's Bay* Beaver is about One Third; to which Point he was examined on Oath before the Council about Twelve Months ago.

And that the *French East-India* Company then sold some Beavers in *Holland* for Sixty Stivers each; and the Witness sold some *Hudson's Bay* Beavers for One hundred.

That the Witness has Accounts of the *French* Imports every Year from *Rochelle*, where the *Canada* Furs are imported; and which specify the several Sorts of Goods imported; by which it appears, that they import Three or Four hundred Martens annually: That there are small Quantities of *Hudson's Bay* Furs imported among the *French* Furs, but very few.

Being asked, If he ever knew any Want of Demand for Furs? he said, The Demand was greater or less, as Circumstances varied. That sometimes they have lain Twelve Months upon their Hands, but since the War the Demand has been great: That Three or Four Years ago the Company had Furs remaining in their Hands Sale after Sale: That the Demand depends greatly upon Fashion; and that he apprehends the Reason of those Goods lying on hand was, that Martens went out of Fashion, and many of them were imported: That as to the Trade in general, there's always a Vent; but when a great Quantity of any particular Species is imported, it lowers the Price.

That the Company export no Furs, but sell them to the Merchants and Furriers at their public Sales, and never sell any by private Contract, except those which have been put up, and for which the Contractor afterwards gives an advanced Price, under which Circumstances the Witness himself has bought Furs of the Company.

Being examined as to Skins or Pelts, he said, That there were but few brought; that they could vend ten times as many Elk Skins, but not Deer Skins: That if a greater Quantity of Elk or
Moose

Moose Skins was brought, it would reduce the Price ; and that Deer Skins sold last *November* for Two Shillings and Sixpence a-piece, and Elk or Moose Skins for Ten Shillings.

And he produced a Deer Skin to your Committee, which he said was brought from *Hudson's Bay*, which appeared to be full of Holes, and informed your Committee that there is not One in Ten of them but are so, but when killed at one time of the Year those Defects are not apparent till they come to be dressed in Oil. And that the Deer Skins from *Virginia* are much more valuable than those of a more Northerly Climate.

That Ermin and Squirrel Skins from *Hudson's Bay* are not worth paying Custom for ; the last Squirrels being sold for a Farthing apiece, after paying a Halfpeny Duty for them : That he has not bought any Ermins from thence of a long time, the best Ermins coming from *Siberia*.

To prove which Assertion, he produced to your Committee Two Ermins from *Hudson's Bay*, the one the best, and the other the worst he could pick out of a Parcel, and one from *Siberia* ; and said that the Price of the *Siberia* Ermins are from One Shilling to One and Sixpence each.

He likewise produced Two *Siberia* Squirrel Skins, and Two from *Hudson's Bay*.

That there have lately been imported about Two thousand Beavers from *New-York* and *New-England* ; but there have not been Two hundred brought from thence besides for several Years.

That he lays out between Four and Five thousand Pounds a Year with the Company, who have stocked the Merchants and Furriers with Beavers for several Years, great Quantities of which the Witness exports annually to *Russia* : That the Company understand their own Interest, and, in general, deal in Commodities that turn to the best Advantage.

That sometimes the Beaver exported to *Russia* lies on hand, on account of the Advance of the Price, which has been the Case since the War, for had it been cheaper five times as much might have been disposed of : And that there is a great Advantage in Importing and Exporting in *English* Bottoms : That if the Trade was opened, he does not apprehend Beaver would be cheaper ; for if once the Profit is reduced to 20 *per Cent.* it would be impossible to carry it on : That he knows 26 *per Cent.* would not pay the Freight : That he never imported any himself, but knows the Expence of importing Goods from other Places, and that there must be an extraordinary Expence both as to Hands and Victuals in *Hudson's Bay* : That tho' he is a Proprietor of
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the Stock, he does not know the Charge they are at; only, in general, that it must be large: That the Company pay the Proprietors sometimes Ten, and sometimes Eight, *per Cent.* which he is very well satisfied with, believing them to be honest Men.

Being asked, If the Company could not employ three times the Stock in Trade they do at present? he said, He believed not: That he questioned whether they could employ double the Stock, because he apprehends no more Goods can be got; for the *Indians* who kill the Beasts are not industrious, but only do it for Subsistence and absolute Necessaries; and they won't make a Toil of a Pleasure for any Consideration.

Captain *Caruthers*, being examined, informed your Committee, that he had formerly been in the Service of the *Hudson's Bay* Company, which he quitted Thirty-five Years ago, nor was he Proprietor of any of their Stock: That the Navigation there is very dangerous and troublesome: That he believes no Attempts were made to find a North-West Passage while he was in the Country, nor was any such thing talked of: That he don't apprehend there is any such Passage; but, if there is, he thinks it impracticable to navigate it on account of the Ice: That he would rather choose to go round *Cape Horne*; and that it will be impossible to go and return thro' such Passage in one Year: And he thinks 'tis the general Opinion of Sea-faring Men that there is no such Passage: That he does not apprehend the Climate, Ten Leagues within Land in *Hudson's Bay*, to be much warmer than at the Sea-shore; but that he never was above Five or Six Leagues up the Country, and could perceive no material Difference: But being further examined, he said, that, to be sure, the Ice on the Sea made the Weather colder on the Coast, and that there is no Doubt but that the Ice breaks sooner up in the Country than by the Sea-shore; for that the Witness himself has seen the Ice drove down the Rivers before it broke at the Mouth of the said Rivers, where such Quantities of it have been stopped as to occasion the overflowing of the Factory.

That when the Ice was so drove down, he has seen a little Moisture on the Ice upon the Sea; but, to be sure, it is warmer up in the Country than on the Shore.

That he does not know whether the Ice is thinner up in the Country than down at Sea; but he believes the great Rivers are not frozen to the Bottom, but has measured Ice in *Nelson's River* Six Foot odd Inches thick: That he has seen Ice, as he believes, Twenty Fathom above Water; and he has measured it Sixty, Seventy, or Eighty Fathoms under Water; but he can't say, that
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it freezes all over the Bay otherwise than a thin Skin of Ice in a Morning in a dead Calm ; but a Ship will fail thro' it well enough : That *Hudson's Streights* are never clear of Ice for Three Months together, tho' some Years there are less Ice than others.

That in *July* the Witness had like to have been destroyed by the Ice at *Nelson's River* in going to *Churchill* ; but that he understood the Bay may be failed in for Six Months ; and that he has heard of a Ship that lost her Passage when in Sight of the Factory, as the Witness thinks, in the Month of *September* ; and he thinks he has known *Nelson's River* frozen up in *October*.

Being examined as to the Trade of the *Hudson's Bay Company* ; he said, He knows no more of it than that they trade with the Natives for Furs and Beavers ; and that the Natives carry the Goods they receive in Exchange from the Factories up into the Country, for fear of being froze up.

That he thinks the Trade is at its utmost Extent, since it would be for the Advantage of the Company to extend it ; and they had always Goods enough, when the Witness was there, to pay for all the Natives brought ; but that he knows nothing of the Trade for Thirty-five Years past : That while the Witness was there, the Company used to employ Three Ships to *Port-Nelson*, which always went back loaded ; and that the Governor, whose Name was *Knight*, treated the Natives very well, and gave them Encouragement ; but that the Witness can't speak the *Indian* Language : That he has heard a good deal of a Copper-Mine to the Northward of *Churchill River*, the *Indians* speaking of it to the Interpreter while the Witness was by ; but he understood no more than that it lay to the Northward of *Churchill*, and that the Governor was mighty fond of the Discovery, and made great Inquiries about it.

That the Interpreter reported the Answers of the *Indians* to the Governor and Council, of which the Witness was one ; and they described the Mine sometimes as a Gold-Mine, sometimes as a Copper Mine ; and that the Witness has seen Copper which was said to be brought from thence, but he does not know whether it was so or not : That the Governor was very earnest in this Discovery, which was always his Topic, and he took all Opportunities of making Presents to the Natives : And the Witness himself carried Mr. *Norton*, who was afterwards Governor, and Two Northern *Indians*, to *Churchill*, where he put them in a Canoe ; and the Purpose of their Voyage was to make Discoveries, and encourage the *Indians* to come down to trade, and

bring Copper-Ore: That he can't recollect, that he ever heard how far it was to this Copper Mine; nor does he know whether there is an easy Passage to it by Land, having never travelled by Land himself, nor heard of any Expedition of that Kind, except that undertaken by *Norton*, and the Two *Indians* aforesaid.

Arthur Slater, being examined, said, That he had been employed in the Service of the *Hudson's Bay* Company on the *East Main*: That he had seen Lead-Ore, of which he had brought a small Quantity to *England*, but never knew it tried: And he produced a Piece of the said Ore to your Committee, which he said he had picked up there from off the Surface of the Ground: That the Soil is rocky, and that he never knew of any Attempt to bore it; nor did he shew this Ore to any of the Factors, which he apprehended there was no Occasion for, as every one had a little, and the Commanders of the Vessels, whose Names were *Mitchell* and *Longden*, took some of the same; nor did he report this to the Company on his Return: That he believes this Ore runs in Veins, but is not so good a Judge of that as a Miner might: That the Piece he produced to your Committee was in the same Condition as when he picked it up, and it was the best he could find: That the Place lies about Three Miles from the Water, and 'tis a very bad Road to it: That a Road for Wheel-Carriages could not be made without great Difficulty; and as the Place lies in 56° North Lat. 'twould be impossible to work there above Three Months in the Year.

That he never heard they were sent for any other Purpose than to discover the Coast: That he can't tell whether the Company would trade in this Ore, if a sufficient Quantity of it could be found; nor does he know whether it would be worth while for a private Trader to do it; but if a Man had Money enough he might try: That he believes the Company trade in Commodities from whence most Profits arise, and that no Persons could carry on the Trade cheaper: That if the Trade was opened, he believes no more Goods would be imported, only one Factory might get the Trade from another; for, in the Apprehension of the Witness, all the *Indians* who don't trade with the *French*, trade with the Company; and that he never knew the *Indians* carry back any Furs.

Your Committee, for their further Information, thought proper to examine several Merchants as to their Opinion of the Expediency and Practicability of carrying on an open Trade to *Hudson's Bay*, who declared themselves in regard to those Particulars as follows:

Mr.

Mr. *John Tomlinson*, Merchant of *London*, informed your Committee, That to the best of his Remembrance he signed a Petition sometime since to his Majesty, the Purport of which he thinks was for a new Charter for carrying on the Trade to *Hudson's Bay*, and the Countries adjoining.

That in case this Petition had succeeded, the Witness himself proposed to have engaged in the Trade; that in his Opinion it would tend to the National Interest to lay open the said Trade, for the following Reasons :

That in that case it might, and he apprehends it would be greatly extended, as the *English* Colonies contiguous to those Countries are prodigiously increased of late ; and the Continent shut up by this exclusive Trade is very extensive, and abounds to the Northward, especially with heavy Commodities, such as Deer and Elks Skins, Whalebone, Oil, and the like ; which, from their Distance from the Company's Factories, the *Indians* are incapable of transporting in their small Craft.

That many more Ships would in that case be sent, and would penetrate into the Continent ; and consequently bring more People down to trade : And this is confirmed by the Experience of the *Guiney* Trade, which, when confined to a Company, employed not above Ten Ships, and now employs One hundred and Fifty ; that Forts or Truck-houses are necessary to be built ; but they are erected and supported at a very easy Expence, being nothing more than cutting down Trees, hewing them square, and dovetailing them at the Corners ; which, being Musquet-proof, are a sufficient Defence against the *Indians* ; and as the Witness apprehends, one of them might be built at the Expence of Twenty Pounds ; which Estimate he forms from what he has seen many times in *New-England*, where there are several Forts of that Kind ; that he does not know whether there are Trees sufficient for this Purpose in all the Countries adjoining to *Hudson's Bay* ; nor does he speak as to any particular Place ; for, if the Trade was opened, all Parts would be tried ; that the People would build for themselves, and the Merchants would embark in the Trade ; that the Witness himself would for one ; and in that case a greater Quantity of our Manufactories would be exported, which would probably produce a great Return.

That this would be a Means of regaining Part of the Trade from the *French*, since by this means the *English* might supply that Trade cheaper than the *French* can, who are obliged to send their Goods to *Canada* ; and the Freight there, and their being obliged to carry back their Goods to the *Indians*, enhances the Price, whereas our Goods might be carried directly into the Bay ; that the Notions of the Witness of this Trade are not founded on

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Experience, having never been concerned in it, but some Part of them collected from Maps and Books, but much more founded on Conversation in the World, and the general Notion of Things.

And being desired to acquaint the Committee, What Steps he would take, in case the Trade should be laid open, and he was to embark in it? he said, He should endeavour to carry it on to the best Advantage; that in all Probability at the first Outset a Number of Persons might be concerned in one Ship, which ought to be mann'd with a sufficient Number of Hands, and likewise Tradesmen, who might lie on board till they had built Log-houses, where People might reside, and trade with the Natives; that this must be carried on by a joint Stock; that is, by several Owners being concerned in one Ship, in the same manner the greatest Part of Trade is now carried on; that he does not imagine Adventurers would suffer others to make use of their Block-house or Warehouse, since it would be necessary, that every one should have a Warehouse to themselves; but it might be worth while to pay for the Use of a Block-house to the respective Proprietors thereof; but as the Country is so extensive, those Warehouses might be erected at such a Distance from each other, as not to interfere.

That each would endeavour to erect their Factory in the best Place for Trade; but he does not believe, that so many Ships would go, as to cause any great Alteration in the Price of Furs; that he does not doubt but it might raise the Price; and that the Case of the *Guiney* Trade is exactly similar, where the Ships lie near one another, and each endeavours to get the Trade; and the more Ships lie there, the higher the Price of Negroes; that the Objection of raising the Price was urged at the time when the *Guiney* Trade was laid open; and though it might advance the Price for a time; that would encourage the *Indians* to bring down more Goods, which must naturally reduce the Price.

Being asked, Whether the Smallness of this Trade is to be attributed to the Difficulty of getting Skins, or bringing them to Market? he said, He supposed there was Difficulty in both.

And being further asked, If the Difficulty was only in bringing Goods to Market, whether in that Case the *Indians* would bring down Twenty Skins when they could have the same Goods for Ten? he said, He thought they would be more diligent, and other Nations would be discovered; and that People would go much higher up into the Country than at present.

That he does not know, whether 'tis the Interest of the present Company to extend their Trade to the utmost, having been informed, that they get a Profit of 1000 or 2000 *per Cent.* in
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which Case it may be their Interest to confine their Trade within a small Compass; that he does not know whether their Trade has been increased for these Thirty Years last past; but by Report 'tis much the same; but he has been surpris'd at the small Quantity of their Exports; for he knows some single Traders who export Ten times as much as the whole Company.

And being asked, Whether it would be for the Advantage of the Company to send 1000 *l.* worth of Goods, when they might have the same Number of Skins for 500 *l.* worth? he said, The Question answers itself; for with respect to the Balance of Trade it would be disadvantageous; but it would be an Advantage to our Manufacturers; but that if they were to purchase the Goods for half the Manufactures, and throw the other Half into the Sea, it would be the same thing.

That he believes, that, if the Trade was opened, it would increase both the Exports and Imports; which he thinks has always been the Case, when any Trade has been laid open; that private Persons can, and always do, carry on Trade both cheaper and better than Companies; but where large Forts and Garrisons are to be maintained, in that Case perhaps Companies are necessary; but in the Trade in Question there is Occasion for no more than little Factories, one of which a Ship's Company would raise in a Week.

And being asked the Question, he said, That he was a Subscriber to the Undertaking for finding out a North-west Passage; which Undertaking was dropp'd for want of Money; that he should not chuse to subscribe again upon the same Terms; that he cannot pretend to say whether there is such a Passage or not, or whether, if found, it could be ever rendered useful to Navigation.

That Opinions are different as to the Degrees of Longitude yet undiscovered; and some People make false Calculations as to the Extent of a Degree, in so high a Northern Latitude: But he apprehends, that the opening the Trade is the most probable Method of finding it, if there is any such Passage, since in that Case the People, by settling and conversing among the Natives, will be furnished with the most probable Method of doing it, at the same time that they were carrying on the Trade.

Mr. *John Hanbury*, Merchant of *London*, being examined, said, The Trade to *Hudson's Bay* might be extended and increased; that he thinks it might, since Forts of Strength are not necessary to restrain the *Indians*, an House inclosed, in the Nature of a Factory, being sufficient for that Purpose, which, in the Opinion of the Witness, would not cost above Twenty Pounds; that Ten or

Twenty People would be sufficient to winter there in time of Peace, as Factors or Store-keepers; but in time of War a greater Number would be necessary; and if the Trade was opened, in the Opinion of the Witness, the Merchants of *London* would engage in it; that he first thought of this merely in a public View, being surpris'd at the great Disproportion between the Exports of the Company and their Sales, the former not amounting to more than Four or Five thousand Pounds a Year, and the latter amounting to Thirty or Forty thousand Pounds annually; that he did not imagine this to arise from the Smallness of the Capital, but from the high Price set upon the Company's Goods; which he looked upon as a Discouragement to the *Indians* to hunt; for that the *Indians* in the Southern Colonies are like other People, some more industrious than others; but, in general, if you'll buy their Deer, they will bring them to Market; by which means they furnish themselves in Southern Colonies with Necessaries.

That the Merchants being willing to send Ships is no Proof, that the Trade could be increased; but 'tis an undoubted one, that 'tis their Opinion it may; but if it was certain the Company's Trade could not be increased, the Merchants would be glad to have a Share of it, and would have no regard to the Company.

That if the Trade was opened for Two or Three Years, and the Merchants should not succeed, he does not apprehend that would destroy the Trade; for if by hurting the Company the Trade should be totally lost, 'twere much better for the Public that the Trade should remain in the Company's Hands, since a small Profit is better than none: But 'tis the Opinion of the Witness, That in that case the Merchants would succeed, since the opening the Trade to so great a Part of the World must be a great Advantage to a People who want room for Trade; and a little Matter won't discourage Merchants in such an Undertaking, who have frequently traded to Loss; and that the Witness himself would engage in this Attempt.

That he apprehends, that if the Trade was open, the Company could not subsist; and 'tis better as it is than to open the Trade, if by that means the Company should be destroyed, and another Nation set up a Company there: But if the separate Traders were at Liberty to try, and did not succeed in Two or Three Years, undoubtedly the Profits of so beneficial a Trade would induce the Company again to engage in it; that this Intermiſſion of Trade would undoubtedly hurt the Company, whom he should be sorry to prejudice; but if he had a Brother in the Company he should think and speak in the same manner that he then did; and 'tis his Opinion, that separate Traders would enlarge the Trade, because
the

the *French* giving a greater Price than us, throws the Trade to them.

That he does not know the *French* ever trade to *Hudson's Bay*; nor is he acquainted with the different Sorts of Furs brought from thence, and from *Canada*.

That he looks upon the laying open the Trade to be the most probable Means of discovering a North-west Passage, which can be done by no other means than settling Colonies there; which he apprehends might be done, since he don't think the Climate worse than *Scotland*, or at least than *Sweden* and *Norway*.

And being asked, If the Climates in the same Latitudes are not very different in *Europe* and *America*? he said, That depends upon the Winds; 'tis hotter in Summer, and colder in Winter, in the same Latitude; and he has been told, that 'tis as hot in *Virginia* as at *Gibraltar*.

Mr. *John Hardman*, Merchant of *Liverpoole*, said, That he was of Opinion the Trade to *Hudson's Bay* might be extended and increased to the Benefit of the Nation, if it was laid open; since no defensible Forts are necessary, but such only as are Proof against small Arms, which at the same time would answer the Purpose of Warehouses.

That he is certain the Merchants of *Liverpoole* would in that case engage in it, having Letters from them to that Purpose; and as the South Part of the Bay lies near *Quebec*, great Part of the Trade to *Canada* might, with proper Encouragement, be brought to this Side: That from the Company's Standard the Witness apprehends they don't give proper Encouragement, since 'tis plain a greater Price would encourage the *Indians* to kill more; and if the Trade was opened, other Rivers and Lakes would be discovered; and the Witness apprehends this is the most proper Method of finding out a North-west Passage, since the separate Traders must, in the Course of their Trade, make new Discoveries.

That the Discoveries made by *Middleton*, and the *Dobbs*, and *Callifornia*, are much greater than ever the Company made; but the ill Success and great Expence which attended those Attempts, will discourage other Adventurers; and the only Method which remains is by settling People in different Places.

That the separate Traders would, as the Witness imagines, build Factories, and carry on the Trade, at less Expence than the Company; that they must leave People to settle there, and would probably carry over in their first Ship Twenty Hands more than was necessary to navigate her for that Purpose.

That

That perhaps they might not succeed the first or second time, but would certainly succeed at last.

That their Business would be in the first place to find proper Places of Trade, which he believes would be where the Company now trade; where they would continue to trade as long as they found it beneficial; but they would soon find it necessary to extend themselves farther, from the Number of People which would enter on the Trade; and this they would certainly do: That they would procure the *Indians* to trade with them, by giving a higher Price for their Goods than the Company do.

That the *Indians* want Goods of various Sorts, such as Woolen and Iron Manufactures, Guns, and Powder.

And being asked, Whether the *Indians* would be prevailed upon to kill more Beasts than to purchase Necessaries for themselves for a Year? he said, He did not doubt but they would, in order to dispose of them to their Neighbours; that at present perhaps, if they were to kill Furs enough to supply them with Necessaries for Two Years, they would not come down to trade; but if they were once made sensible of the Conveniency of having some Property, they would then desire to carry on a Trade, and supply their Neighbours; for that the Witness did not apprehend, that all the *Indian* Nations came down to trade; that this Notion of Property would increase; though it would not increase their real Necessities, yet it would furnish them with imaginary Wants; that if One Man, for Example, was to bring down the Furs caught by Ten, he would doubtless have some Reward for his Labour; that Reward would be a further Encouragement to undertake still more; his Necessities and Desires would increase in proportion to his Property; and if he was able, he would bring down Twenty Peoples Goods the next time, in order to increase his Profits.

That in case the Trade was laid open, the Witness apprehended every trading Town would build their particular Factories, or Houses to trade to; that Block-houses, without Fortifications, are sufficient for that Purpose, as they are Proof against small Shot, and have Bastions at each Corner which flank them; that if the Company were not divested of the Property of their present Settlements, the separate Traders would go to other Places.

That he apprehends the *Indians* to be very numerous; for they were so at the Back of *Virginia* and *Maryland* Twenty Years ago; and he does not apprehend their Numbers are decreased since.

That the opening the Trade would be a means of further extending the Fur Trade, which he believes is increased within these Twenty Years; that proper Persons must be consulted, as

to

to the most convenient Places for Trade; but if the Trade was extended, it would doubtless engage the *Indians*, who at present trade with the *French*, to trade with the *English*.

That an Increase of Exports and Imports would be a double Advantage to the Nation, since some of the Imports are exported, and others manufactured in this Kingdom; and the Cheapness of them would encourage the Manufacturers; and that the Increase of Exports, which are likewise the Manufactures of this Kingdom, would have the same Effect; that he apprehended it would be worth the while of the Merchants to engage, though the Price of the Imports were reduced, which would encourage our own Manufactures, and create a greater Exportation of these Goods; for they have complained in *Russia*, that if they could have got them at any Rate, they could have disposed of any Quantity.

That he believes the Company sell their Goods by Auction, at public Sales.

And being asked, Whether, though 'tis an Advantage to the Merchants to increase the Imports, it might not be to the Advantage of a particular Merchant, to send a small Cargo? he said, that if, he the Witness could get as much by sending Five thousand Pounds, as Eight or Ten, he should certainly chuse the smaller Sum, the Risque being less, and he could set his own Price upon the Commodities.

Mr. *William Wansley*, Merchant of *Bristol*, being examined to the same Particulars as the last Witness; said, that in his Opinion, in case the Trade was laid open, the Merchants of *Bristol* would become Adventurers.

That he apprehended, from all the Accounts, that defensible Forts are not necessary in those Countries, the Natives being an inoffensive People, and willing to trade.

That they carry on a Trade in *Africa* with People much more savage, without any other Protection than Houses or Factories, which serve for Defence against the Natives: And in case the *French* should attempt to intercept their Trade, it would be easy for the Merchants, by establishing Colonies, to engage the *Indians* to trade with them, instead of going to a greater Distance to trade with the *French*: That the Witness has been told, the *French* draw the *Indians* from *Hudson's Bay*; and, in his Opinion, the erecting Settlements up in the Country, would be the most proper Method to increase the Trade; that this appears to be the most eligible Method of finding out the North-west Passage; since, if Colonies were settled there, the Greatness of the

Reward would be a sufficient Inducement to excite their utmost Endeavours; and the Conveniency of the Situation would furnish them with most probable Means of Success; that the Witness himself would be very willing to risque Two or Three hundred Pounds in an Undertaking of this kind, as well with a View to the Extension of the Trade, as to the furthering the aforesaid Discovery.

That he does not apprehend, that defensible Forts, with Cannon, are necessary; but in case they were, he does not think that the Expence of them would be a Consideration sufficient to deter the Merchants of *Bristol* from engaging in such an Undertaking, who are an adventurous Body of Men, and in great Want of some new Channels of Trade, especially for their Woolen Manufactures; and the Witness apprehends, that, even in that case, the Profits would be more than sufficient to answer the Expence.

And being asked, Whether he thinks the Company would have been at the Expence of erecting defensible Forts, if they had not judged them necessary? he said, He apprehended those Forts were erected in the Infancy of the Undertaking, before they were acquainted with the Temper and Disposition of the Natives.

That he don't think it to be the Interest of the Company to extend the Trade; but that, if the Trade was opened, it would doubtless be carried on to the best Advantage; that he conceives, the Company carry on the Trade to the best Advantage for themselves; but the National Interest, and that of the Company, is not the same; and if the Trade was opened, and a new Set of Adventurers to undertake it, they would, in that case, consult their own Interest preferable to that of the Public, but the Public would be benefited by the Increase of Trade.

That, in case of an open Trade, there is not that Opportunity of consulting private Interest, as where a Company is concerned: That the Witness has been told their Profits are exorbitant; and that the separate Traders would be content with one Quarter of them: And 'tis a Maxim in Trade, that a large Quantity of Goods brought to Market reduces the Price.

That the Witness apprehends, that if the Trade was laid open, the first Step to be taken by the Adventurers would be, to erect Places of sufficient Defence against the Natives, or wild Beasts, which would serve for Houses of Trade, or Factories; but they would chuse to erect, at proper Distances from the Company's present Factories, there being Room enough for that Purpose, the Witness being informed those Factories are Five hundred Miles asunder.

That

That if they had Liberty given for that Purpose, they should chuse perhaps, at first, to trade where the Company at present do; that he has been told, the Company's Dominions are unlimited; and that they have Four Forts, One at *Churchill*, One at *Albany*, One at *Moose River*, and *York Fort*; and some little trading Places up the Rivers, particularly at *Albany*; that the Witness never heard of any Forts near *Labaradoro*, nor of any Trade carried on there; that he has likewise been informed of certain Mines; but don't know where they are; that these Particulars he only has from Information: But there is no Part of *North America* but is capable of Improvement; and 'tis natural to conclude, that the separate Traders would improve those Parts which are distant from the Company's present Settlements; and that the Witness should be willing to risque Part of his Fortune in such an Undertaking.

That he has been told a Whale-Fishery might be carried on; and a great many People of Fortune would engage in it: And the Witness don't apprehend, that a Trade carried on in *Labaradore*, could interfere with the Company's Trade, which is carried on, at a very great Distance, on the Western Shore.

Mr. *Cockran*, Provost of *Glasgow*, being examined, said, That in his Opinion, if the Trade to *Hudson's Bay* was laid open, it might be extended, and encreased, to the Benefit of the Nation.

That he does not apprehend, from the Information he has had, that Forts would be necessary, but only Block-houses, and Magazines, the *Indians* being a peaceable People; that the Merchants of *Glasgow*, and several other Places of *Scotland*, particularly the *Frith of Forth*, *Aberdeen*, and *Dundee*, would be ready to engage in it.

That when he first heard of this Inquiry, he wrote to the Merchants of *Glasgow*, and particularly to the Person at the Head of that Body, who is called the Dean of Guild; and had for Answer, That they approved of opening the Trade; and if the Parliament would please to open it, it would answer very well, and they would certainly embark in it; that he can't pretend to say, how it would operate upon the *French Trade* at *Canada*; but is satisfied the *Glasgow* Merchants would engage in the Undertaking, they having often embarked in much more uncertain Enterprizes: That he can't say that he has formed any general Plan or Scheme of this Undertaking; but apprehends it would be necessary to have Settlements on the Land, and Servants there, to trade with the *Indians*; and that the Ships ought to be dispatched soon in the Summer; that he does not know the

Expence

Expence of erecting one of those Block-houses ; but he believes it not to be very great, since 'tis a woody Country ; and the Building might be finished by the Ship's Crew, taking out only an extraordinary Carpenter : And that if the Merchants of *Glasgow* had Reason to believe they could have their Ships loaded in *Hudson's Bay* with Oil and Whalebone, though they were not permitted to deal in Furs, he thinks they would trade there ; but is not acquainted, whether Ships could obtain a Freight of those Commodities in that Place, not knowing any Mariners of *Glasgow*, who have been in the Company's Service.

A P P E N D I X.

NUMBER I.

His Majesty's Royal Charter to the Governor and Company of HUDSON'S BAY.

CHARLES the II. by the Grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. to all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting : Whereas Our dear intirely beloved Cousin, Prince *Rupert* Count Palatine of the *Rhine*, Duke of *Bavaria* and *Cumberland*, &c. *George* Duke of *Albemarle*, *William* Earl of *Craven*, *Henry* Lord *Arlington*, *Anthony* Lord *Ashley*, Sir *John* *Robinson*, and Sir *Robert* *Vyner*, Knights and Baronets, Sir *Peter* *Colleton*, Baronet, Sir *Edward* *Hungerford*, Knight of the Bath, Sir *Paul* *Neele*, Sir *John* *Griffith*, Sir *Philip* *Carteret*, and Sir *James* *Hayes*, Knights, *John* *Kirke*, *Francis* *Millington*, *William* *Prettyman*, *John* *Fenn*, Esquires, and *John* *Portman*, Citizen and Goldsmith of *London*, have, at their own great Cost and Charges, undertaken an Expedition for *Hudson's Bay* in the North-west Parts of *America*, for the Discovery of a new Passage into the *South-Sea*, and for the finding of some Trade for Furs, Minerals, and other considerable Commodities ; and by such their Undertaking have already made such Discoveries as do encourage them to proceed farther in Pursuance of their said Design, by means whereof there may probably arise great Advantage to Us and Our Kingdoms :

And whereas the said Undertakers, for their further Encouragement in the said Design, have humbly besought Us to incorporate

porate them, and grant unto them, and their Successors, the whole Trade and Commerce of all those Seas, Streights, and Bays, Rivers, Lakes, Creeks, and Sounds, in whatsoever Latitude they shall be, that lie within the Entrance of the Streights commonly called *Hudson's Streights*, together with all the Lands, Countries, and Territories, upon the Coasts and Confines of the Seas, Streights, Bays, Lakes, Rivers, Creeks, and Sounds, aforesaid, which are not now actually possessed by any of Our Subjects, or by the Subjects of any other Christian Prince or State :

Now know ye, That We, being desirous to promote all Endeavours that may tend to the publick Good of Our People, and to encourage the said Undertaking, have, of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, given, granted, ratified, and confirmed, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do give, grant, ratify, and confirm, unto Our said Cousin Prince *Rupert*, *George Duke of Albemarle*, *William Earl of Craven*, *Henry Lord Arlington*, *Anthony Lord Ashley*, *Sir John Robinson*, *Sir Robert Vyner*, *Sir Peter Colleton*, *Sir Edward Hungerford*, *Sir Paul Neele*, *Sir John Griffith*, *Sir Philip Carteret*, and *Sir James Hayes*, *John Kirke*, *Francis Millington*, *William Prettyman*, *John Fenn*, and *John Portman*, that they, and such others as shall be admitted into the said Society as is hereafter expressed, shall be one Body Corporate and Politique, in Deed and in Name, by the Name of *The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay*; and them by the Name of *The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England, trading into Hudson's Bay*, one Body Corporate and Politique, in Deed and in Name, really and fully for ever, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, We do make, ordain, constitute, establish, confirm, and declare, by these Presents; and that by the same Name of *Governor and Company of Adventurers of England, trading into Hudson's Bay*, they shall have perpetual Succession; and that they, and their Successors, by the Name of *Governor and Company of Adventurers of England, trading into Hudson's Bay*, be, and at all times hereafter shall be, personable and capable in Law to have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy, and retain, Lands, Rents, Privileges, Liberties, Jurisdiction, Franchises, and Hereditaments, of what Kind, Nature, or Quality soever they be, to them, and their Successors; and also to give, grant, alien, assign and dispose Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, and to do, execute all and singular other Things by the same Name that to them shall or may appertain to do; and that they, and their Successors, by the Name of *The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England, trading into Hudson's Bay*, may plead

plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in whatsoever Courts and Places, before whatsoever Judges and Justices, and other Persons and Officers, in all or singular Actions, Pleas, Suits, Quarrels, and Demands whatsoever, of whatsoever Kind, Nature, or Sort, in such Manner and Form as any other Our Liege People of this Our Realm of *England*, being Persons able and capable in Law, may or can have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy, retain, give, grant, demise, alien, assign, dispose, plead, defend, and to be defended, do, permit, and execute; and that the said *Governor and Company Adventurers of England, trading into Hudson's Bay*, and their Successors, may have a common Seal to serve for all the Causes and Businesses of them, and their Successors; and that it shall and may be lawful to the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, the same Seal from time to time, at their Will and Pleasure, to break, change, and to make anew, or alter, as to them shall seem expedient.

And farthermore, We will, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do ordain, that there shall be from henceforth one of the same Company to be elected and appointed in such Form as hereafter in these Presents is expressed, which shall be called *The Governor of the said Company*.

And that the said Governor and Company shall and may elect Seven of their Number in such Form as hereafter in these Presents is expressed, which shall be called *The Committee of the said Company*, which Committee of Seven, or any Three of them, together with the Governor or Deputy-Governor of the said Company for the Time being, shall have the Direction of the Voyages of and for the said Company, and the Provision of the Shipping and Merchandizes thereunto belonging, and also the Sale of all Merchandizes, Goods, and other Things returned, in all or any the Voyages or Ships of or for the said Company, and the managing and handling of all other Business, Affairs, and Things, belonging to the said Company. And We will, ordain, and grant, by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, that they the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, shall from henceforth for ever be ruled, ordered, and governed, according to such Manner and Form as is hereafter in these Presents expressed, and not otherwise: And that they shall have, hold, retain, and enjoy, the Grants, Liberties, Privileges, Jurisdictions, and Immunities, only hereafter in these Presents granted and expressed, and no other. And for the better Execution of Our Will and Grant in this Behalf, We have assigned, nominated, constituted,

and

and appointed, by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and we do assign, nominate, constitute, and make, Our said Cousin Prince *Rupert* to be the first and present Governor of the said Company, and to continue in the said Office from the Date of these Presents until the 10th *November* then next following, if he the said Prince *Rupert* shall so long live, and so until a new Governor be chosen by the said Company in Form hereafter expressed. And also We have assigned, nominated, and appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do assign, nominate, and constitute, the said Sir *John Robinson*, Sir *Robert Vynner*, Sir *Peter Colleton*, Sir *James Hayes*, *John Kirke*, *Francis Millington*, and *John Portman*, to be the Seven first and present Committees of the said Company, from the Date of these Presents until the said 10th of *November* then also next following, and so until new Committees shall be chosen in Form hereafter expressed.

And farther, We will and grant by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto the said Governor, and their Successors, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Company for the Time being, or the greater Part of them present at any publick Assembly commonly called, *The Court General to be holden for the said Company*, the Governor of the said Company being always one, from time to time to elect, nominate, and appoint one of the said Company to be Deputy to the said Governor; which Deputy shall take a corporal Oath, before the Governor and Three more of the Committee of the said Company for the Time being, well, truly, and faithfully to execute his said Office of Deputy to the Governor of the said Company; and after his Oath so taken, shall and may from time to time, in the Absence of the said Governor, exercise and execute the Office of Governor of the said Company, in such Sort as the said Governor ought to do.

And farther, We will and grant by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto the said Governor and Company of Adventurers of *England* trading into *Hudson's Bay*, and their Successors, that they, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be one, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, shall and may have Authority and Power, yearly and every Year, between the first and last Day of *November*, to assemble and meet together in some convenient Place, to be appointed from time to time by the Governor, or in his Absence by the Deputy of the said Governor, and the said Company for the Time being, and the greater Part of them which then shall happen to be present, whereof the Governor

vernor of the said Company, or his Deputy for the Time being to be one, to elect and nominate one of the said Company, which shall be Governor of the said Company for One whole Year, then next following, which Person being so elected and nominated to be Governor of the said Company, as is aforesaid, before he be admitted to the Execution of the said Office, shall take a corporal Oath before the last Governor, being his Predecessor, or his Deputy, and any Three or more of the Committee of the said Company, for the Time being, that he shall from time to time well and truly execute the Office of Governor of the said Company, in all Things concerning the same ; and that immediately after the same Oath so taken, he shall and may execute and use the said office of Governor of the said Company, for One whole Year from thence next following.

And in like Sort, We will and grant, That as well every one of the above-named to be of the said Company or Fellowship, as all others hereafter to be admitted, or free of the said Company, shall take a corporal Oath before the Governor of the said Company, or his Deputy, for the Time being, to such Effect as by the said Governor and Company, or the greater Part of them, in any publick Court to be held for the said Company, shall be in reasonable and legal Manner set down and devised, before they shall be allowed or admitted to trade or traffick as a Freeman of the said Company. **And farther,** We will and grant, by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, That the said Governor, or Deputy-Governor, and the rest of the said Company, and their Successors, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor, or Deputy-Governor, from time to time to be one, shall and may from time to time, and at all times hereafter, have Power and Authority yearly, and every Year, between the first and last Day of *November*, to assemble and meet together in some convenient Place, from time to time to be appointed by the said Governor, or, in his Absence, by his Deputy ; and that they being so assembled, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, and his Deputy, and the Company for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, which then shall happen to be present, whereof the Governor of the said Company, or his Deputy, for the Time being, to be one, to elect and nominate Seven of the said Company, which shall be a Committee of the said Company, as aforesaid, before they be admitted to the Execution of their Office, shall take a corporal Oath, before the Governor, or his Deputy, and any Three or more of the said Committee of the said Company, being the last

Predecessors, that they, and every of them, shall well and faithfully perform their said Office of Committees in all things concerning the same; and that, immediately after the said Oath so taken, they shall and may execute and use their said Office of Committees of the said Company, for One whole Year from thence next following.

And moreover, Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, that when, and as often as it shall happen, the Governor or Deputy-Governor of the said Company, for the Time being, at any Time within One Year after that he shall be nominated, elected, and sworn to the Office of the Governor of the said Company, as is aforesaid, to die, or to be removed from said Office, which Governor, or Deputy-Governor, not demeaning himself well in his said Office, We will to be removeable at the Pleasure of the rest of the said Company, or the greater Part of them which shall be present at their publick Assemblies, commonly called, *Their General Courts holden for the said Company*, then it shall, and so often may, be lawful to and for the Residue of the said Company, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, within a convenient Time after the Death or Removing of any such Governor or Deputy-Governor, to assemble themselves in such convenient Place as they shall think fit, for the Election of the Governor or Deputy-Governor of said Company; and that the said Company, or the greater Part of them, being then and there present, shall and may then and there, before their Departure from the said Place, elect and nominate one other of the said Company to be Governor or Deputy-Governor for the said Company in the Place or Stead of him that so died, or was removed; which Person being so elected and nominated to the Office of Governor or Deputy-Governor of the said Company, shall have and exercise the said Office for and during the Residue of the said Year, taking first a corporal Oath, as is aforesaid, for the due Execution thereof; and this to be done from time to time, so often as the Case shall so require.

And also, Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto the said Governor and Company, that when, and as often as it shall happen any Person or Persons of the Committee of the said Company, for the Time being, at any Time within One Year next after that they, or any of them, shall be nominated, elected, and sworn to the Office of Committee of the said Company, as is aforesaid, to die, or to be removed from the said Office, which Committee not demeaning themselves well in their said Office,
We

We will to be removeable at the Pleasure of the said Governor and Company, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor or of the said Company, for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be one; that then, and so often, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, and the rest of the Company, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be one, within convenient Time after the Death or Removing of any of the said Committees, to assemble themselves in such convenient Place as is or shall be usual and accustomed for the Election of the Governor or of the said Company, or where else the Governor of the said Company for the Time being, or his Deputy, shall appoint. And that the said Governor and Company, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be one, being then and there present, shall and may then and there, before their Departure from the said Place, elect and nominate One or more of the said Company in the Place or Stead of him or them that so died, or was or were so removed; which Person or Persons so nominated and elected to the Office of Committee of the said Company, shall have and exercise the said Office for and during the Residue of the said Year, taking first a corporal Oath, as is aforesaid, for the due Execution thereof; and this to be done from time to time, so often as the Case shall require.

And to the end the said *Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay* may be encouraged to undertake, and effectually to prosecute, the said Design; of Our more especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, We have given, granted, and confirmed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do give, grant, and confirm, unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, the sole Trade and Commerce of all those Seas, Streights, Bays, Rivers, Lakes, Creeks, and Sounds, in whatsoever Latitude they shall be, that lie within the Entrance of the Streights commonly called *Hudson's Streights*, together with *all the Lands* and Territories upon the Countries, Coasts, and Confines of the Seas, Bays, Lakes, Rivers, Creeks, and Sounds aforesaid, that are not already actually possessed by the Subjects of any other Christian Prince or State, with the Fishing of all Sorts of Fish, Whales, Sturgeons, and all other Royal Fishes, in the Seas, Bays, Inlets, and Rivers within the Premises, and the Fish therein taken, together with the Royalty of the Sea upon the Coasts within the Limits aforesaid, and all Mines Royal, as well discovered as not discovered, of Gold, Silver, Gems, and precious Stones, to be found or discovered within the Territories, Limits, and Places aforesaid; and

and that the Land be from henceforth reckoned *and reputed as one of our Plantations* or Colonies in *America*, called *Rupert's Land*.

And farther, We do by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, make, create, and constitute, the said Governor and Company, for the Time being, and their Successors, the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of the same Territories, Limits, and Places aforesaid, and of all other the Premises, saving always the Faith, Allegiance, and Sovereign Dominion, to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the same to have, hold, possess and enjoy the said Territories, Limits, and Places, and all and singular other the Premises hereby granted, as aforesaid, with their and every of their Rights, Members, Jurisdictions, Prerogatives, Royalties, and Appurtenances whatsoever, to them the said Governor and Company, and their Successors for ever, to be holden of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, as of Our Manor of *East Greenwich* in the County of *Kent*, in free and common Socage, and not in *Capite*, or by Knight's Service; yielding and paying yearly to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the same, Two Elks, and Two black Beavers, whensoever, and as often as We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall happen to enter into the said Countries, Territories, and Regions hereby granted.

And farther, Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto the said Governor and Company, and to their Successors, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, from time to time, to assemble themselves, for or about any the Matters, Causes, Affairs, or Businesses of the said Trade, in any Place or Places for the same convenient, within Our Dominions or elsewhere, and to hold Court for the said Company, and the Affairs thereof; and that also it shall and may be lawful to and for them, or the greater Part of them, being so assembled, and that shall then and there be present, in any such Place or Places, whereof the Governor, or his Deputy, for the Time being, to be one, to make, ordain, and constitute, such and so many reasonable Laws, Constitutions, Orders, and Ordinances, as to them, or the greater Part of them being then and there present, shall seem necessary and convenient for the good Government of the said Company, and of all Governors of Colonies, Forts, and Plantations, Factors, Masters, Mariners, and other Officers employed, or to be employed, in any the Territories and Lands aforesaid, and in any of their Voyages; and for the better Advancement and Continuance of said Trade or Traffick, and Plantations, and the same Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances so made, to be put in Use, and execute accordingly,

ordingly, and at their Pleasure to revoke and alter the same, or any of them, as the Occasion shall require : And that the said Governor and Company, so often as they shall make, ordain, or establish, any such Laws, Constitutions, Orders, and Ordinances, in such Form as aforesaid, shall and may lawfully impose, ordain, limit, and provide, such Penalties and Punishments upon all Offenders, contrary to such Laws, Constitutions, Orders, and Ordinances, or any of them, as to the said Governor and Company for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, then and there being present, the said Governor or his Deputy being always one, shall seem necessary or convenient for the Observation of the same Laws, Constitutions, Orders, and Ordinances ; and the same Fines and Amerciaments shall and may by their Officers and Servants, from time to time to be appointed for that Purpose, levy, take, and have, to the Use of the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, without the Officers and Ministers of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and without any Account thereof to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to be made : All and singular which Laws, Constitutions, Orders, and Ordinances, so as aforesaid to be made, We will to be duly observed and kept, under the Pains and Penalties therein to be contained ; so always as the said Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances, Fines and Amerciaments, be reasonable, and not contrary or repugnant, but as near as may be agreeable, to the Laws, Statutes, or Customs, of this Our Realm.

And furthermore, of our ample and abundant Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, We have granted, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, that they, and their Successors, and their Factors, Servants, and Agents, for them, and on their Behalf, and not otherwise, shall for ever hereafter have, use, and enjoy, *not only the whole, intire, and only Liberty of Trade and Traffick*, and the whole, intire, and only Liberty, Use, and Privilege of Trading and Traffick to and from the Territories, Limits, and Places aforesaid ; but also the whole and intire Trade and Traffick to and from all Havens, Bays, Creeks, Rivers, Lakes, and Seas, into which they shall find Entrance or Passage, by Water or Land, out of the Territories, Limits, and Places aforesaid ; *and to and with all the Natives and People*, Inhabitants, or which shall inhabit within the Territories, Limits, and Places aforesaid ; and to and with all other Nations inhabiting any the Coasts adjacent to the said Territories, Limits, and Places aforesaid, which are not already possessed as aforesaid, or whereof the sole Liberty or Privilege of

Trade and Traffick is not granted to any other of Our Subjects.

And of Our farther Royal Favour, and of Our more especial Grace, certain Knowlege, and mere Motion, have granted, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do grant to the said Governor and Company, and to their Successors, that *neither the said Territories, Limits, and Places*, hereby granted as aforesaid, nor any Part thereof, nor the Islands, Havens, Ports, Cities, Towns, and Places thereof, or therein contained, shall be visited, frequented, or haunted by any of the Subjects of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, contrary to the true Meaning of these Presents, and by virtue of Our Prerogatives Royal, which We will not have in that Behalf argued or brought into Question; We streightly charge, command, and prohibit, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, all the Subjects of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, of what Degree or Quality soever they be, that none of them directly do visit, haunt, frequent or trade, traffick or adventure, by way of Merchandize, into or from any the said Territories, Limits, or Places, hereby granted, or any or either of them, other than the said Governor and Company, and such particular Persons as now be, or hereafter shall be, of that Company, their Agents, Factors, and Assigns, unless it be by the Licence and Agreement of the said Governor and Company in Writing first had and obtained, under their common Seal to be granted, upon Pain that every such Person or Persons that shall trade and traffick into or from any of the Countries, Territories, or Limits aforesaid, other than the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, *shall incur our Indignation, and* the Forfeiture, and the Loss of the said Goods, Merchandizes, and other Things whatsoever, which so shall be brought into this Realm of *England*, or any the Dominions of the same, contrary to Our said Prohibition, or the Purport or true Meaning of these Presents, or which the said Governor and Company shall find, take, and seize, in other Places out of Our Dominions, where the said Company, their Agents, Factors, or Assigns, shall trade, traffick, or inhabit, by virtue of these Our Letters Patents; as also the Ship and Ships, with the Furniture thereof, wherein such Goods, Merchandizes, and other Things, shall be brought or found, the one Half of all the said Forfeiture to be to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and the other Half thereof by these Presents clearly and wholly for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, give and grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors. And farther, all and every their said Offenders, for the said Contempt, to suffer such Punishment as to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, shall seem meet

or

or convenient, and not to be in any-wise delivered until they, and every of them, shall become bound unto the said Governor, for the Time being, in the Sum of One thousand Pounds at the least, at no time thenafter to trade and traffick into any of the said Places, Seas, Bays, Streights, Ports, Havens, or Territories aforefaid, contrary to Our exprefs Commandment in that Behalf fet down and published.

And farther, of Our more especial Grace, We have condescended and granted, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, that We, Our Heirs and Successors, will not grant Liberty, Licence, or Power, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, contrary to the Tenor of these Our Letters Patents, to trade, traffick, or inhabit, unto or upon any of the Territories, Limits, or Places, afore specified, contrary to the Meaning of these Presents, without the Consent of the said Governor and Company, or the most part of them.

And, of Our more abundant Grace and Favour to the said Governor and Company, We do hereby declare Our Will and Pleasure to be, That if it shall so happen, that any of the Persons free or to be free of the said Company of Adventurers of *England* trading into *Hudson's Bay*, who shall, before the going forth of any Ship or Ships appointed for a Voyage, or otherwise, promise or agree, by Writing under his or their Hands, to adventure any Sum or Sums of Money, towards the furnishing any Provision, or Maintenance of any Voyage or Voyages, set forth or to be set forth, or intended or meant to be set forth, by the said Governor and Company, or the more Part of them present at any publick Assembly, commonly called *The General Court*, shall not within the Space of Twenty Days next after Warning given to him or them, by the said Governor and Company, or their known Officer or Minister, bring in and deliver to the Treasurer or Treasurers appointed for the Company, such Sums of Money as shall have been expressed and set down in Writing, by the said Person or Persons, subscribed with the Name of said Adventurer or Adventurers, that then, and at all Times after, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Company, or the more Part of them present, whereof the said Governor or his Deputy to be one, at any of their General Courts, or General Assemblies, to remove and disfranchise him or them, and every such Person or Persons, at their Wills and Pleasures; and he or they so removed and disfranchised, not to be permitted to trade into the Countries, Territories, or Limits aforefaid, or any Part thereof, nor to have any Adventure or Stock going or remaining with

or

or among the said Company, without special Licence of the said Governor and Company, or the more Part of them present at any General Court, first had and obtained in that Behalf; any thing before in these Presents to the contrary thereof in any-wise notwithstanding.

And Our Will and Pleasure is, and hereby We do also ordain, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Company, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be one, to admit into, and be of the said Company, all such Servants or Factors, of or for the said Company, and all such others as to them, or the most Part of them present at any Court held for the said Company, the Governor or his Deputy being one, shall be thought fit and agreeable with the Orders and Ordinances made and to be made for the Government of the said Company.

And farther, Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto the said Governor and Company, and to their Successors, that it shall and may be lawful in all Elections, and By-Laws, to be made by the General Court of the Adventurers of the said Company, that every Person shall have a Number of Votes according to his Stock; that is to say, For every hundred Pounds by him subscribed or brought into the present Stock, One Vote; and that any of those that have subscribed less than One hundred Pounds, may join their respective Sums to make One hundred Pounds, and to have One Vote jointly for the same, and not otherwise.

And farther, of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, We do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant to and with the said *Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay*, that all Lands, Territories, Plantations, Forts, Fortifications, Factories, or Colonies, where the said Company's Factories or Trade are or shall be, within any the Ports or Places afore limited, shall be immediately and from henceforth under the Power and Command of the said Governor and Company, their Successors and Assigns; saving the Faith and Allegiance due and to be performed to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, as aforesaid; and that the said Governor and Company shall have Liberty, full Power and Authority, to appoint and establish Governors, and all other Officers to govern them; and that the Governor and his Council of the several and respective Places where the said Company shall have Plantations, Forts, Factories, Colonies, or Places of Trade within any the Countries, Lands, or Territories hereby granted, may have Power to judge all Persons belonging to the said Governor and Company,

ny, or that shall live under them, in all Causes, whether Civil or Criminal, according to the Laws of this Kingdom, and to execute Justice accordingly.

And, in case any Crime or Misdemeanor shall be committed in any of the said Company's Plantations, Forts, Factories, or Places of Trade within the Limits aforesaid, where Judicature cannot be executed for want of a Governor and Council there, then in such case it shall and may be lawful for the chief Factor of that Place, and his Council, to transmit the Party, together with the Offence, to such other Plantation, Factory, or Fort, where there shall be a Governor and Council, where Justice may be executed, or into the Kingdom of *England*, as shall be thought most convenient, there to inflict such Punishment as the Nature of the Offence will deserve.

And moreover, Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do give and grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, free Liberty and Licence, in case they conceive it necessary, to send either Ships of War, Men, or Ammunition, into any their Plantations, Forts, Factories, or Places of Trade aforesaid, for the Security and Defence of the same, and to choose Commanders and Officers over them, and to give them Power and Authority, by Commissions under their Common Seal, or otherwise, to continue or make Peace or War with any Prince or People whatsoever, that are not Christians, in any Places where the said Company shall have any Plantations, Forts, or Factories, or adjacent thereunto, as shall be most for the Advantage and Benefit of said Governor and Company, and of their Trade; and also to right and recompense themselves upon the Goods, Estate, or People of those Parts, by whom the said Governor and Company shall sustain any Injury, Loss, or Damage, or upon any other People whatsoever, that shall any way, contrary to the Intent of these Presents, interrupt, wrong, or injure them in their said Trade, within the said Places, Territories, or Limits, granted by this Charter. And that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, from time to time, and at all times henceforth, to erect and build such Castles, Fortifications, Forts, Garisons, Colonies or Plantations, Towns or Villages, in any Parts or Places within the Limits and Bounds granted before in these Presents, unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, from time to time, and at all times from henceforth, to erect and build such Castles, Fortifications, Forts, Garisons, Colonies or Plantations, Towns or Villages, in any Parts or Places within the Limits and Bounds granted before in these
d Presents,

Presents, unto the said Governor and Company, as they in their Discretion shall think fit and requisite ; and for the Supply of such as shall be needful and convenient to keep and be in the same, to send out of this Kingdom to the said Castles, Forts, Fortifications, Garisons, Colonies, Plantations, Towns or Villages, all Kinds of Cloathing, Provision of Victuals, Ammunition, and Implements necessary for such Purpose, paying the Duties and Custom for the same ; as also to transport and carry over such Number of Men being willing thereunto, or not prohibited, as they shall think fit, and also to govern them in such legal and reasonable Manner as the said Governor and Company shall think best, and to inflict Punishment for Misdemeanors, or impose such Fines upon them for Breach of their Orders, as in these Presents are formerly expressed.

And farther, Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, full Power and lawful Authority to seize upon the Persons of all such *English*, or any other Subjects, which shall sail into *Hudson's Bay*, or inhabit in any of the Countries, Islands, or Territories hereby granted to the said Governor and Company, without their Leave and Licence in that Behalf first had and obtained, or that shall contemn or disobey their Orders, and send them to *England* ; and that all and every Person or Persons, being Our Subjects, any ways employed by the said Governor and Company, within any the Parts, Places, or Limits aforesaid, shall be liable unto, and suffer such Punishments for any Offences by them committed in the Parts aforesaid, as the President and Council for the said Governor and Company there shall think fit, and the Merit of the Offence shall require, as aforesaid ; and in case any Person or Persons, being convicted and sentenced by the President and Council of the said Governor and Company, in the Countries, Lands, and Limits aforesaid, their Factors or Agents there, for any Offence by them done, shall appeal from the same ; and then, and in such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said President and Council, Factors or Agents, to seize upon him or them, and to carry him or them home Prisoners into *England*, to the said Governor and Company, there to receive such condign Punishment as his Cause shall require, and the Law of this Nation allow of : And for the better Discovery of Abuses and Injuries to be done unto the said Governor and Company, or their Successors, by any Servant by them to be employed in the said Voyages and Plantations, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Company, and their respective Presidents, Chief
Agent,

Agent, or Governor in the Parts aforesaid, to examine upon Oath all Factors, Masters, Purfers, Supercargoes, Commanders of Castles, Forts, Fortifications, Plantations, or Colonies, or other Persons, touching or concerning any Matter or Thing, in which by Law or Usage an Oath may be administered, so as the said Oath, and the Matter therein contained, be not repugnant, but agreeable to the Laws of this Realm.

And We do hereby streightly charge and command all and singular our Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Justices, Mayors, Sheriffs, Constables, Bailiffs, and all and singular other Our Officers, Ministers, Liegemen, and Subjects whatsoever, to be aiding, favouring, helping, and assisting to the said Governor and Company, and to their Successors, and to their Deputies, Officers, Factors, Servants, Assignees and Ministers, and every of them, in executing and enjoying the Premises, as well on Land as at Sea, from time to time, when any of you shall thereunto be required; any Statute, Act, Ordinance, Proviso, Proclamation, or Restraint heretofore made, set forth, ordained, or provided, or any other Matter, Cause, or Thing, whatsoever to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding. IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents; Witness Ourself at *Westminster*, the Second Day of *May* in the Two-and-twentieth Year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy-Seal,

Signed,

PIGOTT.

NUMBER

NUMBER II.

JOSEPH *la France* is now about 36 Years old. He was born at *Missilimakinac*, and was 5 Years old when his Mother died. His Father then took him with him to *Quebec* to learn *French*, where he staid the Winter, about 6 Months. He says, as well as he can remember, *Quebec* was about a League long, and Half a League broad, and had 4 or 5000 Men in Garison, it being about the Time of the Peace of *Utrecht*. He returned from thence with his Father, and lived with him until his Death, which happened when he was 14 Years old. After his Death, when he was about 16, he went down to *Monreal*, to sell what Furs and Peltry his Father had left him; and then returned to *Missilimakinac*, where he traded and hunted in the neighbouring Countries until he was 27 Years old; in which Time he went one Year to *Mississippi*. He went by the *Illinese* Lake, which he calls *Michigon*. At the Bottom of the Lake there was a *French* Fort, in which there were 15 *French* in Garison, about 11 Years ago. The River upon which it is built, he calls *Saint Joseph*; it is very rapid. He passed by *Ouisconsin* to the *Mississippi*, and went down it as far as the River *Missouris*, and returned by the same Route. In his Return he passed by the Bay of *L'Our qui Dort*, so called from a Heap of Sand upon a Point which resembles a Bear sleeping. When he was 28 Years old, he went with a Parcel of Furs, with 8 *Iroquesse*, in 2 Canoes, cross the Lake of *Hurons*, by the Bay of *Sakinak*, to the Streights of *Errie*, which they passed in the Night for fear of being stopped by the *French*, who have a Village or little Fort there, in which he believes there may be 100 Houses. He from thence passed thro' Lake *Errie* to the Fall of *Niagara*, and the *Iroquesse* carried his Canoes and Furs down by the Fall to Lake *Frontenac*, for which he gave them 100 Beavers, and thence went to *Oswega*; but was not within the Fort or Town, the *Iroquesse* selling his Furs for him; and then returned by the same Way to *Missilimakinac*. He says the *French* have a Fort on the North Side of the Fall of *Niagara*, betwixt the Lakes *Errie* and *Frontenac*, about 3 Leagues within the Woods from the Fall, in which they keep 30 Soldiers, and have about as many more with them as Servants and Assistants; these have a small Trade with the *Indians* for Meat, Ammunition, and Arms.

About

About 6 Years ago he went again to *Monreal* with Two *Indians*, and a considerable Cargo of Furs, where he found the Governor of *Canada*, who wintered there. He made him a Present of Martens Skins, and also 1000 Crowns, for a Conge or Passport to have a Licence to trade next Year: But in Spring he would neither give him his Conge nor his Money, under Pretence that he had sold Brandy to the *Indians*, which is prohibited, and threatened him with Imprisonment for demanding his Money; so that he was obliged to steal away with his Two *Indians*, and what Goods he had got in Exchange for his Furs, with his 3 Canoes. *Monreal*, he says, is about 60 Leagues above *Quebec*. It is a large Town, about a League and an Half in Circuit within the Walls, which are 15 Feet high, of Lime and Stone. They have 300 Men in Garison. This is the only considerable Town in *Canada* besides *Quebec*; for *Trois Rivieres* is but a Village. He says, they have a Fort the Natives call *Catarakui* Fort, 80 Leagues above *Monreal*, near Lake *Frontenac*, in which they keep a Garison of 40 Men, as the *Indians* informed him, and about as many more Inhabitants. The River *St. Laurence*, from thence to *Monreal*, is so full of Waterfalls, and so rapid, that there is the utmost Danger and Difficulty in going by Water, and no going so far by Land through the Woods, so that no Trade can be carried on that Way but at great Expencc.

They have no other fortified Places in *Canada*, but one Fort called *Champli*, near *Champlain* Lake, upon the *English* and *Iroquese* Frontiers, in which they have 20 Men in Garison.

He was above 40 Days in going up the River, from *Monreal* to the Lake *Nepesing*; which is at the Source of that River which he calls *St. Laurence*, and not the River which passes through the Lakes; but *La Hontan* calls it the River *Outaouas*. He had 36 Land-Carriages before he got to *Nepesing*. He was but 18 Days in going down it to *Monreal*. He says, the River *Nepesing* runs from the same Lake into the Lake of *Hurons*. This is what *La Hontan* calls *French* River; it is 20 Leagues in its Course, and had Three Falls upon it, which they descended in Two Days; and with a fair Wind they might go from thence to *Missilimakinac* in Two Days more along the Islands. Upon his Return he exchanged his Goods for Furs, and resolved to try his Fortune once more to *Monreal*, and make his Peace with the Governor. He says, when he left *Missilimakinac*, there were but 2 Men with the Governor in Garison, which was only to open and shut the Gates. He says, that of late the Trade from thence to *Monreal* is so much lessened upon account of the *English* supplying the *Indians* much cheaper and better, by an easy Navigation through the Lakes to *Niagara*, that
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there do not go above 11 Canoes in a Year, and those Licences are generally given to superannuated Officers; the Avarice and Injustice of the Governor of *Canada* has likewise disgusted the Natives.

After having got a Parcel of Furs, he, with Two *Indian* Slaves, and 3 Canoes, passed the Lake *Huron*, and enter'd the River *Nepising*, and went up it several Leagues; but at a Turn in the River he met 9 Canoes, in which was the Governor's Brother-in-law, with 30 Soldiers, and as many more to manage the Canoes, who seized him and his Furs, and Slaves, as a Runaway without a Passport, and would have carried him away to *Monreal*; but he made his Escape into the Woods in the Night, with only his Gun, and Five Charges of Powder and Ball, and passed by Land alone through the Woods on the North Side of *Huron* Lake, until he met with some of the *Missada* Indians, who live there, having been Six Weeks in his Journey, travelling behind the Mountains, on the North Side of the Lake, in a marshy Country, abounding with Beavers, and thus returned to *Saut St. Marie*; and having lost all, determined to go to the *English* in *Hudson's Bay*, by passing thro' the *Indian* Nations West of the Upper Lake, until he should arrive, by these Lakes and Rivers which run Northwards, at *York Fort*, on *Nelson's* River.

He set out in the Beginning of Winter 1739. upon this Journey and Voyage, and hunted and lived with the *Indians* his Relations the *Sauteurs*, on the North Side of the Upper Lake, where he was well acquainted, having hunted and traded thereabouts for Fourteen Years. He says the Upper Lake has Three Islands near the North Shore, about 3 Leagues from the Shore; they are about 3 or 4 Leagues each in Circumference. One of them he calls *Isle du Lignon*; they are full of fine Woods, as is all the North Coast, which is very mountainous; but the Country is very fine to the Northward of the high Land.

The Upper Lake falls into the Lake of *Hurons* by the Falls of *St. Mary*, which is a rapid Current of several Leagues. From that Fall to the River *Michipikoton* on the North Side of the Lake, is 60 Leagues; that River is navigable Northward for 20 Leagues, being 3 Fathoms deep, and without Cataracts; it runs through a Valley betwixt the Mountains; which is about Three Leagues wide, full of fine Woods; and then there is a Fork where Two Branches meet; and on each Side, at a considerable Distance, are Two round Hills detached from the others, which they call *Le Deux Mamelles*, or Two Paps; these Two Branches come from their several Sources, after running about Eight Leagues, through a Country abounding in Bearers. There are Two *Indian* Nations upon this North Coast;
the

the *Epinette* Nation are upon the East Side of that River, and the *Ouassé* upon the West Side, both Tribes of the *Sauteurs*.

About 100 Leagues farther West is another River, which runs from the North-west into this Lake, which he calls the River *Du Pique* from a sharp Rock at the Mouth of the River, formed like a Pike or Halbert: It is only navigable for about Three Leagues to a Fall, above which is a Lake about Six Leagues long, which comes from a marshy Country full of Beavers; on the West Side of this River, and of the Upper Lake, is a Range of Mountains full of Woods, and a River full of Cataracts descends from them, and enters into the River *Du Pique* a little before it passes into the Lake; among these Mountains are several rich Mines; he saw some very good Lead and Copper Ore, which the Natives brought down from these Mountains. On the South-west Side of the Lake, under these Mountains, is a flat Country, full of Woods and Beavers, but the South and South-east Side is a sandy, low, dry Country, without Wood. He staid Part of the Winter with the *Indians* at *Michipikoton*, and in the Month of *March* got to the River *Du Pique*, which he passed on the Ice, it being not then thawed. He says, there are many Beavers also among the Mountains, Southward of that River, they having great Flats above, and among the Mountains, where they make their Dams and Ponds. The Ice was quite gone on the South-west Side of the Lake, by the 15th of *April*, N. S. He says, the Lake is never frozen at any Distance from the Shore, only in little Bays, where it sometimes is frozen, and breaks off, and is carried out and in with the Wind.

On the sandy Coast, on the South-east Side of the Lake, there is nothing but Shrubs not above Six Feet high; but at some Distance from the Coast there are fine Meadows and Pasture, full of Elks, Stags, Deer, Goats, wild Beeves, &c. interspersed with Woods; and the *Indian* Nations in the neighbouring Countries remove thither in the Summer Season, to hunt and feed upon them.

On the South-west Side of the Lake, betwixt the woody and Champaign sandy Country, there is a Land-Carriage of 3 Leagues, and they came to a Marsh or Bog about a League long, and Five Furlongs over, and from thence another Land-Carriage of Nine Leagues to the River *Du Pluis*, which, after a Course of Fifteen Leagues, falls into the Lake *Du Pluis*. He was from the Beginning to the 18th of *April* 1740. in getting to this River; there he, and the *Indians* with him, got fine Birch-trees of a great Size to make their Canoes. The River they embark'd upon was about Three Furlongs broad, but was not deep, and had no Waterfalls; the

the Course was South-west. The *Indians*, who are on the West Side of that River, are called *Monsoni* or *Mosonique*, or *Gens de Original*. The Lake *Du Pluis* is 100 Leagues in Length, and is so called from a perpendicular Water-fall, by which the Water falls into a River South-west of it, which raises a Mist-like Rain. He was 15 Days in passing down this River to the Lake *Du Pluis*, in his Canoe; he coasted along the North-west Side of the Lake, which was full of fine Woods; but there was none on the South-east Side, as the Natives informed him, except near the Edge of the Lake, for about Half the Length of the Lake, at which Place a River enters it from the South Side, which comes from a low Country, full of Beavers. The *French*, upon Account of these Land-Carriages, never pass into these Countries adjoining to this Lake.

He passed the Lake *Du Pluis* in the latter End of *April*, and Beginning of *May*; and staid 10 Days at the Fall with the *Monsoni*, where they fish with Nets at the Bottom of the Fall. They have Two great Villages, one on the North Side, and the other on the South Side of the Fall.

The River *Du Pluis*, which falls from the Lake, is a fine large River, which runs Westward, and is about 3 Furlongs in Breadth; its Course is about 60 Leagues before it falls into the Lake *Du Bois*, or *Des Isles*, and is free from Cataracts, having only Two sharp Streams. He was 10 Days in going down it in his Canoe; the whole Country along its Banks is full of fine Woods, in which are great Variety of Wild-fowl and Beasts, as wild Beaver, Stags, Elk, Deer, &c. and the River and adjoining Lakes full of excellent Fish. This River falls into the Lake *Du Bois*, where he arrived about the End of *May*. This Lake is very large, and filled with fine Islands; he was 30 Days in passing it, fishing and hunting as he went with the Natives, and staid a Month in one of the Islands with the *Monsoni* and *Sturgeon Indians*, who live on the North Side of this Lake, and meet in that Island to be merry, and confirm their Friendship and Alliance; these last are called so from the great Number of Sturgeons they take in this Lake, which is the greatest Part of their Provisions. He stayed there until the Month of *August*. All these Islands and Coasts are low, and full of fine Woods, where all kind of Fowl breed. At the West End of this Lake, which is much longer than the Lake *Du Pluis*, a great River enters it near the Place where the great *Ouinipique* River passes out of it, and runs into the Lake of the same Name. This River has a long Course from the Southward. On the South-west of this Lake is the Nation of the *Sieux Indians*. The River *Ouinipique* is as large as the River *Du Pluis*, but is much more rapid, having

having about 30 Falls or Sharps upon it, where they must carry their Canoes. Two or Three of them are Carriages of a League or Two, the others are very short. Upon that Account he was 15 Days in going down the River, which runs North-west about 100 Leagues. It also runs through a fine woody Country, having many Sorts of Timber-trees of great Bulk. On the South-west Side, at some Distance, is a flat Country, full of Meadows; at the Falls it is about a Furlong in Breadth, in other Places Three or Four. He arrived at the great *Ouinipique* Lake in *September*; he was about 30 Days in passing it, shooting and fishing as he went. After going half-way through it, he joined the *Cris* or *Christinaux* *Indians*, who live on the North-east Side, and went on Shore, and hunted Beavers all the Autumn. He saw but Two Isles in it; one was full of Wood, it was about 3 Leagues long, and 2 broad. He called it the *Isle Du Biche*, or *of Hinds*, there being several upon it; the other was sandy, and without Wood, full of Geese and other Water-fowl, which breed there; he called it *Goose Isle*, but the Natives called it *Sandy Isle*.

On the West Side of this Lake the *Indians* told him a River enter'd it, which was navigable with Canoes; it descended from *Lac Rouge*, or the *Red Lake*, called so from the Colour of the Sand; they said there were Two other Rivers run out of that Lake, one into the *Mississipi*, and the other Westward, into a marshy Country, full of Beavers.

The Country West of the *Ouinipique* Lake has dry Islands or Hills with marshy Bottoms, full of Woods and Meadows. On the East Side is a fine flat Country, full of Woods, until they come to the Bottom of the Mountains, which are betwixt this and the Upper Lake. On a Lake on that Side, betwixt this Lake and Lake *Du Bois*, are the *Migechichilinous*, or *Eagle-eyed Indians*; these, he says, are not called so from their having a sharp Sight, but upon account of many Eagles which breed in Islands in that Lake.

Upon the West Side of Lake *Ouinipique* are the Nation of the *Affinibouels* of the Meadows, and farther North a great Way are the *Affinibouels* of the Woods. To the Southward of these are the Nation of *Beaux Hommes*, situated betwixt them and the *Sieux Indians*. The *Indians* on the East Side are the *Christinaux*, whose Tribes go as far North on that Side as the *Affinibouels* do on the other. All these Nations go naked in Summer, and paint or stain their Bodies with different Figures, anointing themselves with Grease of Deer, Beavers, Bears, &c. which prevents the Musketoes, Serpents, or other Vermin, from biting them, they having an Antipathy to all Oils.

The great *Ouinipique* Lake was frozen over in Winter; it is nowhere 10 Leagues wide, and in some Places not above a League and a half wide; the Winter there was not severe, it lasted about 3 Months and a half, the Frost breaking up there in *March*.

This Lake is discharged into the little *Ouinipique* by a River he calls the *Red River*, or *Little Ouinipique*, after a Course Northwards of about 60 Leagues.

This River runs through the like woody Country as the others; but the West Side is more temperate than the East, upon account of the Mountains to Eastward of it; from whence a River descends into it through a marshy Country, full of Beavers.

He made his Canoe in the Spring, at the North End of this Lake, and went down to the little *Ouinipique* in the Beginning of Summer; this last Lake is about 35 Leagues long, and 6 broad; there is but one little Island in it, almost upon a Water-Level; the *Indians* call it *Mini Sabique*.

The Course of this Lake is from South to North, through a woody, low Country. In all these Countries are many Kinds of wild Fruit, as Cherries, Plums, Strawberries, Nuts, Walnuts, &c. The Winters here are from 3 to 4 Months, according as they happen to be more or less severe. He passed this Lake, and the River which runs into the *Lake Du Siens*, in Summer and Autumn; this is about 100 Leagues from the other. He says there is a Fork in this River *Du Siens*, by which one Branch discharges itself more Westerly, and runs into the Country, where is the Nation of *Vieux Hommes*; this Nation is not called so from the Age of the Inhabitants, but from a Number of old Men, who separated from some others, under a Chief or Leader of their own; and from that time they were called so. On the East Side there enters a rapid River from the Mountains, full of Falls, upon which the Nation *Du Cris Panis Blanc* inhabit, who are still a Tribe of the *Christinaux*.

The *Lake Du Siens* is but small, being not above 3 Leagues in Circuit; but all around its Banks, in the shallow Water and Marshes, grows a kind of wild Oat, of the Nature of Rice; the outward Husk is black, but the Grain within is white and clear like Rice; this the *Indians* beat off into their Canoes, and use it for Food.

All the Country adjoining this River is also full of Beavers. Here the Winter overtook him, and he was obliged to part with his Canoe, and travelled and hunted through that Country for Six Months, in which Time he passed Northwards near 100 Leagues; but would have been much more, had he followed the Course of
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the River in Summer in his Canoe. He got to the Lake *Cariboux* in the Beginning of *March* 1742: This Lake is about 10 Leagues long, and 5 broad; the Ice was beginning to thaw when he came there; a Tribe of the *Christinaux* live on the East of this Lake, and the *Affinibouels* of the Woods on the West Side. The River *Cariboux* runs out of this Lake Northwards for about 15 Leagues, and then it spreads, and is wasted in a marshy Country, where there is no passing by Water, nor by Land in Summer; the Ice being then breaking up, he was obliged to go about 15 Leagues Eastward, to avoid the Bogs, before he could reach the Lake *Pachegoia*, into which the River *Cariboux* descends through the Marshes.

Pachegoia is the Lake where all the *Indians* assemble in the latter End of *March* every Year, to cut the Birch-trees, and make their Canoes of the Bark, which then begins to run, in order to pass down the River to *York* Fort on *Nelson* River with their Furs; it is divided so as to make almost Two Lakes; the West Side by which he passed was about 100 Leagues in Circuit; the other Side or Eastern Lake was much larger, as the *Indians* informed him. The River *De Vieux Hommes* runs from the West for about 200 Leagues, and falls into this Lake, near the Place the River *Cariboux* enters it; it has a strong Current, and is always muddy, but there are no Falls upon it: These go generally down the River *Mannoutifibi* or *Churchill* River, and trade there, having either a Passage or short Land-carriage to that River. The Lake *Pachegoia* was surrounded with fine Woods of Oak, Cedar, Pine, Poplar, Birch, &c. He arrived there the latter End of *March*, and he, with the other *Indians*, cut the Bark for their Canoes, and then hunted for some time for Provisions; they began to make their Canoes the first of *April*, N. S. which they finished in Three Days; on the 4th, he being appointed one of their Leaders, set out with 100 Canoes in Company, for the Factory at *York* Fort: There are generally Two *Indians* in a Canoe, but he was alone in his; they were Three Weeks in passing along the West Side of the Lake before they came to the Place it is discharged by the River *Savanne* or *Epinette*; for they were obliged to coast the West Side of the Lake in their little Canoes, and keep along the Bottom of each Bay; for these small Canoes can bear no Surge or Waves when the Wind blows; and when they came to any Point on the Lake, if there was any Wind, they were obliged to carry their Furs and Canoes over the Land to the next Bay, which, with hunting for Provisions, delayed them greatly; at that Time they had neither Ice on the Lake, nor Snow on the Land. In the Beginning of *May*, N. S. he entered the River *Savanne*; but did not reach the
great

great Fork where the River divides, until the Beginning of *June*; for the *Indians*, what with hunting for Provisions, and from their Laziness, who would not stir or exercise in the Heat of the Day, it being then very warm, and the Trees all fully blown, and from some Land-Carriages upon the Sharps and Falls, did not go above Two or Three Leagues in a Day. The River was small, where it came out of the Lake, for about Six Leagues, it spreading through several little Passages through the Marshes; but farther down, when collected together, formed a large River; it was then quite free of Ice, they had a brisk Current, and several Sharps; but had but one Carriage of 100 Yards; it is about 80 or 90 Leagues from the Lake to the Fork. The Land at some Distance from the River was dry and hilly, and full of fine Trees of great Bulk and Height, as Fir, Pine, Spruce, Ash, Elm, Birch, Cedar, Alder, &c. The Banks were low, until they got to the great Fork, where the River is divided by a Rock, upon which a convenient Fort might be built, which might be cut off by bringing the Water around it. It is about 60 Leagues from this Fork to the Factory: They staid here Eight Days to hunt for Provisions; there not being plenty of Game upon the East Branch, which is the Way he went down, it being the shortest Passage; at the same time another Fleet of 100 Canoes went down the Western Branch; it was the 29th of *June*, N. S. when he got to the Factory; and the other Party who went down the other Branch, were Three Weeks later. From this Fork to within Four or Five Leagues of the Fort, the Banks are high, and of red Earth, from which he calls the River from the Fork, the River *de Terre rouge*; and from that Place they descend gradually to the Sea, until they are near a Water-Level; the Current was very easy from the Fork to the Fort, the Island to Westward of their Chanel was full of Wood, but the Country above and beyond the other Bank was not so woody. They were about Three Weeks in going from the Fork to the Factory; for the *Indians* told him, notwithstanding it was so warm and pleasant in passing down the River, and the Trees fully blown, that when they would come near the Sea, they would find it very cold, with Snow and Ice in the River, and the Trees but just beginning to bud; and accordingly they delayed going down so soon as they otherwise might, or they could have gone down in Four or Five Days: This he could not easily believe, considering how forward the Spring was there, and the Weather so warm; but when he came within Four or Five Leagues of the Fort, where the Land began to slope towards the Sea, he then found a great deal of Ice in the River, and the Trees
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but juſt budding; and when he got to the Fort, the Snow fell in one Night Three or Four Inches thick; but all above, along the River, the Climate and Seaſon was warm, and the Trees all in high Bloom.

Two Days after he got to *York* Fort, one of the *Monſoni Indians* arrived there with his Wife; he had Four Packs of Beavers of 40 each; he told him, he came by the River and Lake *Du Pique*, and was Two Years hunting from thence before he got to the Fort; that he had about Sixty Land-Carriages, paſſing from Lake to Lake, having no Rivers running the Courſe he came, except one which he paſſed down for Two Days; he came to one very great Lake, in which he could diſcover no Land on either Side; but paſſed along it, from Iſland to Iſland, which took him up a conſiderable time.

The *Indians* being obliged to go aſhore every Day to hunt for Proviſions, delays them very much in their Voyages; for their Canoes are ſo ſmall, holding only Two Men and a Pack of 100 Beavers-skins, that they can't carry Proviſions with them for any Time; if they had larger Canoes, they could make their Voyages ſhorter, and carry many more Beavers to Market, at leaſt Four times as many, beſides other Skins of Value, which are too heavy for their preſent Canoes: This, and the high Price ſet upon the *European* Goods by the Company in Exchange, diſcourages the Natives ſo much, that if it were not that they are under a Neceſſity of having Guns, Powder and Shot, Hatchets, and other Iron Tools for their Hunting, and Tobacco, Brandy, and ſome Paint for Luxury, they would not go down to the Factory with what they now carry: At preſent they leave great Numbers of Furs and Skins behind them. A good Hunter among the *Indians* can kill 600 Beavers in a Seaſon, and can carry down but 100; the reſt he uſes at home, or hangs them upon Branches of Trees, upon the Death of their Children, as an Offering to them; or uſe them for Bedding and Coverings: They ſometimes burn off the Fur, and roaſt the Beavers like Pigs, upon any Entertainments; and they often let them rot, having no further Uſe of them. The Beavers, he ſays, are of Three Colours; the Brown reddiſh Colour, the Black, and the White: The firſt is the cheapeſt: The Black is moſt valued by the Company, and in *England*: The White, tho' moſt valued in *Canada*, giving 18 Shillings, when others gave Five or Six Shillings, is blown upon by the Company's Factors at the Bay, they not allowing ſo much for theſe as for the others; and therefore the *Indians* uſe them at home,

or burn off the Hair, when they roast the Beavers like Pigs; at an Entertainment when they feast together: He says, these Skins are extremely white, and have a fine Lustre, no Snow being whiter, and have a fine long Fur or Hair; he has seen 15 taken of that Colour out of one Lodge, or Pond. The Beavers have Three Enemies, Man, Otters, and the Carcajon, or Queequehatch, which prey upon them, when they take them at an Advantage; the last is as large as a very great Dog; it has a short Tail like a Deer or Hair, and has a good Fur, valued at a Beaver and half in Exchange. The Beavers chiefest Food is, the Poplar, or Tremble; but they also eat Sallows, Alders, and most other Trees not having a resinous Juice; the middle Bark is their Food: In *May*, when the Wood is not plenty, they live upon a large Root, which grows in the Marshes, a Fathom long, and as thick as a Man's Leg, the *French* call it *Volet*; but the Beavers are not so good Food as when they feed upon Trees. They will cut down Trees above Two Fathoms in Girth with their Teeth; and one of them observes when it is ready to fall, and gives a great Cry, and runs the contrary Way, to give Notice to the rest to get out of the Way; they then cut off all the top Twigs, and smaller Branches, Two or Three Fathoms in Length, and draw them to their Houses, which they have built in their Ponds, after having raised or repaired their Pond-head, and made it staunch, and thrust one End into the Clay or Mud, that they may lie under Water all the Winter, to preserve the Bark green and tender, for their Winter Provision; after cutting off the small Branches, they cut and carry away the larger, until they come to the Bole of the Tree. The Beavers are delicious Food; but the Tongue and Tail the most delicious Parts of the whole: They are very fat from *November*, until the End of *March*; they have their Young in the Beginning of Summer, at which Time the Females are lean by suckling their Young; and the Males are lean the whole Summer, when they are making or repairing their Ponds and Houses, and cutting down and providing Timber and Branches for their Winter Store. They breed once in a Year, and have from Ten to Fifteen at a Litter, which grow up in one Season; so that they multiply very fast, and if they can empty a Pond, and take the whole Lodge, they generally leave a Pair to breed, so that they are fully stocked again in Two or Three Years.

The Loup Cervier, or Lynx, is of the Cat Kind, but as large as a great Dog; it preys upon all the Beasts it can conquer, as
does

does the Tyger, which is the only Beast in that Country that won't fly from a Man.

The *American Oxen*, or Beeves, have a large Bunch upon their Backs, which is by far the most delicious Part of them for Food, it being all as sweet as Marrow, juicy and rich, and weighs several Pounds.

The *Indians* West of the Bay, living an erratic Life, can have no Benefit by tame Fowl or Cattle; they seldom stay above a Fortnight in a Place, unless they find Plenty of Game. When they remove, after having built their Hut, they disperse to get Game for their Food, and meet again at Night, after having killed enough to maintain them for that Day; they don't go above a League or Two from their Hut. When they find Scarcity of Game, they remove a League or Two farther; and thus they traverse through these woody Countries and Bogs, scarce missing one Day, Winter or Summer, fair or foul, in the greatest Storms of Snow, but what they are employed in some kind of Chace. The smaller Game, got by Traps or Snares, are generally the Employment of the Women and Children; such as the Martens, Squirrels, Cats, Ermines, &c. The Elks, Stags, Rein-deer, Bears, Tygers, wild Beeves, Wolves, Foxes, Beavers, Otters, Corcajeu, &c. are the Employment of the Men. The *Indians*, when they kill any Game for Food, leave it where they kill it, and send their Wives next Day to carry it home. They go home in a direct Line, never missing their Way, by Observations they make of the Course they take upon their going out, and so judge upon what Point their Huts are; and can thus direct themselves upon any Point of the Compass. The Trees all bend towards the South, and the Branches on that Side are larger and stronger than on the North Side; as also the Moss upon the Trees. To let their Wives know how to come at the killed Game, they from Place to Place break off Branches, and lay them in the Road, pointing them the Way they should go, and sometimes Moss; so that they never miss finding it.

In Winter, when they go abroad, which they must do in all Weathers, to hunt and shoot for their daily Food, before they dress, they rub themselves all over with Bears Grease, or Oil of Beavers, which does not freeze; and also rub all the Fur of their Beaver-Coats, and then put them on: They have also a kind of Boots, or Stockings, of Beaver's Skin, well oiled, with the Fur inwards; and above them they have an oiled Skin laced about their Feet, which keeps out the Cold, and also Water, when there is no

Ice

Ice or Snow ; and by this means they never freeze, nor suffer any thing by Cold. In Summer also, when they go naked, they rub themselves with these Oils or Grease, and expose themselves to the Sun, without being scorched ; their Skins always being kept soft and supple by it: Nor do any Flies, Bugs, or Musketoes, or any noxious Insect, ever molest them. When they want to get rid of it, they go into the Water, and rub themselves all over with Mud or Clay, and let it dry upon them, and then rub it off; but whenever they are free from the Oil, the Flies and Musketoes immediately attack them, and oblige them again to anoint themselves.

The *Indians* make no Use of Honey ; he saw no Bees there but the wild Humble Bee ; but they are so much afraid of being stung with them, they going naked in Summer, that they avoid them as much as they can : Nor did he see any of the Maple they use in *Canada* to make Sugar of, but only the Birch, whose Juice they use for the same Purpose, boiling it until it is black and dry, and then using it with their Meat. They use no Milk from the Time they are weaned, and they all hate to taste Cheese, having taken up an Opinion, that it is made of dead Mens Fat. They love Prunes and Raisins, and will give a Beaver-skin for Twelve of them, to carry to their Children ; and also for a Trump, or *Jew's* Harp. He says the Women have all fine Voices, but have never heard any musical Instrument. They are very fond of all Kinds of Pictures, or Prints ; giving a Beaver for the least Print : And all Toys are like Jewels to them.

When he got to the Natives Southward of *Pachegoia*, he had about 30 Cowries left, and a few small Bells, less than Hawks Bells : When he shewed one of them, they gave him a Beaver-skin for One ; and they were so fond, that some gave him Two Skins, or Three Marten-skins for One, to give their Wives, to make them fine. The Martens they take in Traps ; for if they shot them, their Skins would be spoiled : They have generally Five or Six at a Litter.

He says, the Natives are so discouraged in their Trade with the Company, that no Peltry is worth the Carriage ; and the finest Furs are sold for very little. When they came to the Factory in *June* 1742. the Prices they took for the *European* Goods were much higher than the settled Prices fixed by the Company ; which the Governors fix so, to shew the Company how zealous they are to improve their Trade, and sell their Goods to Advantage. He says, they gave but a Pound of Gunpowder for
4 Beavers,

4 Beavers, a Fathom of Tobacco for 7 Beavers, a Pound of Shot for 1, an Ell of coarse Cloath for 15, a Blanket for 12, 2 Fish-hooks, or 3 Flints, for 1, a Gun for 25, a Pistol for 10, a common Hat with white Lace 7, an Ax 4, a Bill-hook 1, a Gallon of Brandy 4, a chequer'd Shirt 7; all which are sold at a monstrous Profit, even to 2000 *per Cent*. Notwithstanding this Discouragement, the two Fleets which went down with him, and parted at the *Great Fork*, carried down 200 Packs, of 100 each, 20000 Beavers; and the other *Indians* who arrived that Year, he computed carried down 300 Packs of 200 each, 30000, in all 50000 Beavers, and above 9000 Martens.

The Furs there are much more valuable than the Furs upon the *Canada Lakes*, sold at *New-York*; for these will give Five or Six Shillings *per Pound*, when the others sell at Three Shillings and Sixpence. He says, that if a Fort was built at the *Great Fork*, 60 Leagues above *York Fort*, and a Factory with *European Goods* were fixed there, and a reasonable Price was put upon *European Goods*; that the Trade would be wonderfully increased: For the Natives from the Southward of *Pachegoia* could make, at least, Two Returns in a Summer; and those at greater Distances could make One, who can't now come at all; and above double the Number would be employed in Hunting, and many more Skins would be brought to Market, that they can't now afford to bring for the Expence and low Price given for them. The Stream is so gentle from the *Fork* to *York Fort*, on either Branch, that large Vessels and Shallops may be built there, and carry down bulky Goods, and also return again against the Stream: And the Climate is good, and fit to produce Grain, Puls, &c. and very good Grass and Hay for Horses and Cattle. And if afterwards any Settlements were made upon *Pachegoia*, and Vessels built to navigate that Lake, which is not more Northerly than Lat. 52 Degrees, the Trade would be still vastly more enlarged and improved, and spread the Trade not only up the Rivers and Lakes as far as the Lake *Du Bois*, and *De Pluis*, but also among the *Affinibouels*, and Nations beyond them, and the Nation *de Vieux Hommes*, who are 200 Leagues Westward of *Pachegoia*. He says, the Nations who go up that River with Presents, to confirm the Peace with them, are Three Months in going up; and say, they live beyond a Range of Mountains beyond the *Affinibouels*; and that beyond them are Nations who have not the Use of Fire-Arms; by which means, many of them are made Slaves by them, and are sold to the *Affinibouels*, *Panis*

Blanc, and *Christinaux*. He saw several of them, who all wanted a Joint of their Little Finger, which, they said, was cut off soon after they were born; but gave no Reason for it.

Whilst he was at *York Fort* he got acquainted with an old *Indian*, who lived at some Distance from *Nelson River*, to the Westward, being one of those they call the *Home Indians*, who had, about 15 Years ago, gone at the Head of 30 Warriors, to make War against the *Attimospiguais*, *Tete Plat*, or *Plascotez de Chiens*, a Nation living Northward on the Western Ocean of *America*: He was the only one who returned, all the rest being either killed, or perished through Fatigue, or want of Food, upon their Return. When they went, they carried their whole Families with them, and hunted and fished from Place to Place for Two Winters, and One Summer, having left their Country in Autumn, and in *April* following came to the Sea-side on the Western Coast, where they immediately made their Canoes. At some little Distance they saw an Island, which was about a League and a half long. When the Tide was out, or Water fell, they had no Water betwixt them and the Island; but when it rose, it covered all the Passage betwixt them and the Island, as high up as the Woods upon the Shore: There they left their Wives and Children, and old Men to conduct them home, and provide them with Provisions, by hunting and shooting for them upon the Road; and he, with 30 Warriors, went in Quest of their Enemies the *Tete Plat*. After they parted with their Families, they came to a Streight, which they passed in their Canoes. The Sea-coast lay almost East and West; for he said the Sun rose upon his Right Hand, and at Noon it was almost behind him, as he passed the Streight, and always set in the Sea. After passing the Streight, they coasted along the Shore for Three Months, going into the Country and Woods, as they went along, to hunt for Provisions. He said, they saw a great many large Black Fish spouting up Water in the Sea. After they had thus coasted for near Three Months, they saw the Footsteps of some Men on the Sand, by which they judged they were not far from their Enemies; upon which, they quitted their Canoes, and went Five Days through the Woods and Bushes, which were but very low and shrubby, and so close, they could with Difficulty make way through it; and then came to the Banks of a River, where they found a large Town of their Enemies; and, after making their usual Cry, they discharged their Arrows and Guns against those who appeared, upon which they fled; but upon finding how few they were, they returned, and killed

15 of them, and wounded 3 or 4 more; upon which, they fled to the Woods, and from thence made their Escape to their Canoes before their Enemies overtook them, and, after a great deal of Fatigue, got to the Streight; and, after getting over, they all died, one after another, except this old Man, of Fatigue and Famine, leaving him alone to travel to his own Country, which took him up about a Year's time; having left his Gun, when his Ammunition was spent, and lost all his Arrows, and, upon his Return, had not even a Knife with him: So that he was reduced to live upon Herbs, and the Moss growing upon the Rocks; and was almost famished when he reached the River *Sakie*, where he met his Friends again, who relieved him, when he despaired of ever again seeing his own Country. This is the Account, so far as *Joseph la France* could inform me, of those Countries Southward of *York Fort*, which may be brought to trade there.