

that *he had annual accounts from Rochelle of what furs the French imported, which all came there; and that they imported three or four hundred martins annually, and with them a small quantity of Hudson's-Bay furs.* — This is the substance of his evidence.

It had been strongly urged against the Company, that they did not endeavour to encrease and extend their fur-trade as they ought; that the French carried away many of their rich furs from the inland at the heads of their settlements; that by not sending up persons to trade upon the rivers and lakes, great numbers of deer and buffalo skins were lost, the natives having no conveyance for them down the rivers but small birch-canoes; and that a great many other kinds of furs might be had, if the natives were not discouraged from taking them, on account of the high price of the Company's goods, such as white hares, ermines, and squirrels. Mr. Sparling's testimony was intended to invalidate this charge; and with that view he produced the deer, ermine, and squirrel-skins.

THE deer-skin he produced was probably the vilest he could pick out, full of holes, and killed at an improper season; for deer-skins, like other pelts and furs, have their season. At one time of the year they are troubled with an insect that eats holes in their skins, a disorder called the warbles, of which, however, they are perfectly cured before winter; but if the deer are killed at this season, the skins must unavoidably have holes in them; and is that a reason why the natives should not be encouraged to kill them at a proper season, by allowing a just price for good skins? Had the natives any reason to expect that their care would be rewarded, they would never kill deer out of season, unless
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