

A P P E N D I X.

of their employers' interest, to either hide or stifle such discovery; and you have our most positive orders, on such points coming to your knowledge, instantly to dismiss such persons, and those concerned, from our service; nor will we permit any deviation from this point, except your reasons are strong and sufficient for pursuing a different line of conduct.

We also authorise you to dismiss from your service all persons who shall refuse to obey your orders, when they are for our benefit; and, in this case, we give you to understand, the Princess Royal, America, and other small craft, are always to continue on the coast of America; their officers and people, when the time of their service is up, must be embarked on the returning ship to China; and on no account whatever will we suffer a deviation from those orders.

Should you meet with any of the ships of Messrs. Etches and Co. on the coast, you will of course afford them every assistance in your power; but as we shall have no interest in those ships, if you can induce the commanders to trade on our joint account, it will be most agreeable to us; but no trading connexions whatever must be, except on account of the present company. To the person entrusted with the command of those ships, you will make known the nature of our connexions with Mr. Etches; you will in consequence make a demand of all their surplus stores, or articles of commerce, &c. they have to dispose of, in order that they may be left in the factory; and a particular account must be taken of all that are delivered, as they must be accounted for to Mr. Etches by the Company. We have no doubt but that your requisition will be complied with, as it ultimately tends to the good of their employers.

The number of competitors you will meet with on the coast, will, we fear, somewhat diminish your collection of furs, as well as enhance their price; we have no doubt of your activity and perseverance, as well as address, in your negotiations. We place the strongest reliance on your vigilance and caution; and as we have conferred on you the most ample powers, in return we look for considerable responsibility, and a happy completion of our plans. In a full persuasion of this, we shall take our leave, with a strong recommendation of unanimity amongst your officers, and the strictest discipline over your people.— We wish you health and a prosperous voyage,

And remain, &c.

J. MEARES.

For Messrs. Etches, Cox, and Co.