

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 any more; upon which the Boy was sent out of the Factory, and died, as the Witness 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 Witness 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 *Pots* 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 Turnips: 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 Turnips 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 Currants, 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 by the Straightness 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 *Missipi*; 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 Southernmost 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