

N^o. 13.

COPIES of Letters from Mr. Duffin to Mr. Mears.

In Mr. Mears's Memorial of 30th April 1790. (N^o 9)

Nootka Sound: July 12th 1789.

Dear Sir,

I BEG to inform you, per Favour of Mr. Barnett, with our safe Arrival in Nootka Sound, after a pleasant Passage of Nine Weeks, and Four Days, during which Time nothing materially happened. We lived in the greatest Harmony and good Friendship during the Time we have been together, and every Thing promised fair for a Continuation of the same, every Officer on Board seeming strenuous for their Employers Interest. We made the Coast of America, July 3d, at Woody Point, and stood along shore under easy Sail during the Night. In the Morning several Natives came off, with the rest Counna Keelah (that was brought by you from Macao to Nootka) from him we learnt there were Five Vessels in Friendly Cove, but could not learn of what Nation they were; however he informed us they had Captured the North West American Schooner, commanded by Mr. Funter. We immediately conjectured that the Vessels were some belonging to Mr. Etches, and the American Ship and Sloop. We made all the Sail we could, intending to get in that Night if possible. On our nearing the Sound, we saw a Sloop coming out, which we were informed was the Princess Royal, belonging to our Concern. We then had not the least Doubt but there were some of Mr. Etches Vessels in the Cove. When we were about Two miles from the Entrance of the Sound, we saw a Boat coming towards us; it was then between Nine and Ten o'Clock, so that we could not discern of what Country they were. They hailed us in Spanish; and asked if they might be permitted to come on Board. They were answered in the Affirmative; on which they came alongside, and the Officer, with several other Gentlemen, stepped up. We found the former to be the Spanish Commodore; those who accompanied him were of his Ship. After having welcomed them on Board, Captain Colnett asked them down in the great Cabin; what their Conversation was there I am unacquainted with; but Captain Colnett soon told me his Intention was to go into Friendly Cove, and the Spanish Launch took us in tow accordingly. About Ten Minutes after this, came on board Mr. Barnett, whom I directly introduced to Captain Colnett, who informed him that there was a Spanish Frigate of 26 Guns, and a Snow of 16 lying in the Cove, as also the American Ship and Sloop; that the former had erected a Fort on Hog Island, on which 16 Guns were mounted, and had taken Possession of the Sound in the Name of his most Catholic Majesty, Carolus the 3d, King of Spain; that they had Captured the Schooner, and plundered the Iphigenia Nubiana, but had permitted Captain Hudson to proceed without any Molestation. As the Commodore heard this Intelligence, he immediately gave Captain Colnett his Word and Honour that he would not offer to detain him, but give him every Assistance in his Power, in doing which, he only complied with the King of Spain's Orders. Under these Circumstances, and depending on his Honour, Captain Colnett entered the Cove, and brought up between the Frigate and Snow, though I must add, Mr. Barrett, with others of our Well-wishers, advised us to Anchor without Side the Cove, that we might take a View of the surrounding Objects in the Morning. Every Thing that Night, and the next Morning, seemed to wear a favourable Aspect, no Obstacle arising that might stop our Departure. In the Afternoon Captain Colnett went on Board the Commodore's Ship, and requested his Permission to go to Sea immediately, which at First was granted, but on Second Consideration, the Commodore desired to see his Papers. Captain Colnett left the Commodore and came on Board of his own Vessel, where, after having put on the Company's Uniform, and his Hanger, he took his Papers on Board the Commodore. He was then informed by that Gentleman, that he could not Sail that Day, on which some high Words ensued between them, and Captain Colnett insisted on going out immediately, which he said he would do unless the Commodore fired a Shot at him; if so, he would then haul down his Colours, and deliver himself up a Prisoner. Hardly had he uttered this, but he was put under an Arrest, his Sword taken from him, the Vessel seized, and the Officers and Crew taken out, and sent Prisoners, some on Board the Ship, and the Rest on Board of the Snow; but what is most particular, he desired Captain Kendrick to load his Guns with Shot to take a Vessel that had only Two Swivels mounted, so that it was impossible to make any Resistance against such Superiority; indeed it would have been Madness to have attempted it. The Commodore's Passion now began to abate a little, and he sent for me from the St. Carlos, where I was imprisoned. When I came to him, he seemed to profess a very great