

Though the Natives of the vast Countries around *Hudson's-Bay*, with whom the Traffick of the Company is carried on, are still in that State of natural Ignorance, which People more informed, have arrogantly presumed to call *savage*, Heaven has not denied them the Knowledge necessary for the few Purposes of their narrow Sphere of Life. They were not long engaged in this Traffick, therefore, before they discovered some of the gross Impositions practised upon them, though they could not possibly form even a Conception of the whole.

I have observed to your Lordship, that the Commerce of the *Hudson's-Bay* Company consists in bartering some of our Manufactures and Commodities, the cheapest and worst of their Kinds, with the Natives, for their Furs. The first Thing, which Reason would suggest to be done in such a Traffick, by those, who had the Lead in it, must be to fix the Rates of the several Articles to be brought by them for Barter, at such a Standard, as should obviate their being ever under a Necessity of altering it, and thereby raising a Suspicion of Injustice in the others, who being neither able to judge of these Terms, nor of the accidental Circumstances, which might at particular Times make an Alteration in them necessary, were they struck with exactness, would certainly take Offence at such Alteration, though they could not avoid submitting to the first Establishment, in the making of which I have not presumed to mention the least Regard to Justice.

But instead of this, a new Standard is arbitrarily imposed by the Company every Season, not on Pretence even of any
Alteration