

witnesses which they thought proper to produce in their defence: these were only two, captain Caruthers, whose evidence I have already cited in my observations upon Knight's voyage, and Mr. Henry Sparling merchant and furrier, and a proprietor of the Company. This gentleman, as some persons have insinuated, was called upon to give his opinion of the furs which the Company imported, and also to discredit the account of the French getting Hudson's-Bay furs; but principally to support his own affidavit, made on the hearing before the attorney and solicitor-general, *that Hudson's-Bay ermines and squirrels were of small value*; and also the affidavit made by Anthony Lutkins and Nicholas Lewis, *that they were not worth one penny per dozen*; which brought on another affidavit, *that upon going to a furrier to enquire the price of Hudson's-Bay ermines, under a pretence of purchasing some, the furrier said, they generally were sold for about two shillings a piece.*

UPON Mr. Sparling's being examined about skins and pelts, *he produced a deer's skin from Hudson's-Bay full of holes, and said there was not one in ten that was not so; but when killed at one season of the year the defect was not apparent, till they were dressed in oil*; adding, *that the Virginia deer-skins are much more valuable.*—He said, *that ermine and squirrel-skins from Hudson's-Bay were not worth paying custom for; the last squirrel-skins being sold for a farthing a piece, after paying a halfpenny duty: that he had bought no ermines from the Bay of a long time, the best coming from Siberia.* To prove this he produced *two ermines from the Bay, one the best, the other the worst he could pick out of a parcel, and one from Siberia; and said that the Siberia ermines sold from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence each: he then produced two Siberia squirrel-skins, and two from the Bay.*—He said farther, that