

A P P E N D I X.

impositions of the native merchants, and of impressing them with an idea of the superiority of your merchandise, &c. &c. The tide of fancy of those people may be turned; the fickleness of their disposition is well known to you, as well as your ingenuity to us in combating those difficulties. On the fall of the year we wish all the small craft to be laid up at the factory, which you will name Fort Pitt.

You will invest Mr. R. Duffin with the superintendence of this station, and strenuously recommend him to keep good order and harmony therein; to build storehouses for the reception of the tackle and furniture of the shipping that you may order to be laid up; and, above all, to recommend to him to use every precaution against the scurvy, by exercise and the unremitting use of the decoction of pine tops.

You will, in the winter season, send what vessels you judge proper to the Sandwich Islands for provisions, &c. In their return, we imagine that some of the natives of those isles, both men and women, may be embarked and transplanted to America, and made useful in our employ; this must be done with their own consents, and with every precaution with regard to their health as well as happiness.

We desire the Argonaut may be returned to China the end of this season with the furs. You will deliver her to Captain William Douglass, and receive from him the Iphigenia and America, shifting the crews, &c. &c. You will also receive his surplus trade, and all other stores of that nature, and in return supply him with refreshments to carry him to the islands, where he can procure a supply.

The furs you send to China, we desire may be well cleaned, and otherwise dressed, classed, and put into chests; samples of each quality must be put into a separate box; every skin, piece, and tail, must be numbered, and a register kept of the whole, and transmitted to us, with your other dispatches, by Captain Douglas: in these you will be very particular in advising us of all articles wanted for the year 1790.

We recommend to your attention the state of the markets in China; the vast difference between good and bad skins, as a guidance to your purchases on the coast; as 100 prime skins are most assuredly worth 500 bad, independent of lessening the value of your articles of commerce. All collections of furs, to the latest period, you will send home in the Argonaut.

Sea-otters tails and seal skins now become an object, from the price they bear.—It will be entirely needless to direct you in the purchases of furs, where you are so well acquainted; this we leave entirely to yourself; but we cannot avoid reminding you, and to desire a strict attention is paid, that no illicit commerce is carried on by any persons in our employ: on any circumstances of this kind, the offenders may depend on our exacting, in the strictest manner, the penalties which a breach of articles may incur. The pay of officers of every description is extremely liberal; and we shall esteem it the duty of every individual to make known such circumstances of illicit commerce as may come within their knowledge, as in our eyes it is equally criminal, and shews a great neglect
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