

wish it could not be said, that taking advantage of the necessities of this abused people, who as they have no other market to go to are obliged to submit to any terms that are imposed upon them, they derive some gains also from weights and measures. This they call the profit of the over-plus trade ; part of which they always add to the Company's stock for the sake of enhancing the merit of their services, and apply the remainder to their own use, which is often expended in bribes to screen their faults and continue them in their command. It is this trade that is the great bond of union between the governors and captains, who are so extremely watchful over their strange privileges, that, as I said before, if there is the least suspicion of a man's having understanding enough to discover their iniquities, and honesty enough to detest and expose them, he is sure to be undermined in the Company's esteem; he is kept as ignorant of the trade and nature of the country as possible; and when his time is expired, if not before, is sent home with such a character as will effectually hinder his return.

It is certain that the cruel and oppressive behaviour of the governors and captains towards the inferior servants, not only deters useful people from engaging in the Company's service, a circumstance which they ought to attend to for their own interest; but furnishes one pretence for the bad character that is given of the country. Those men that are driven from it by ill usage, come home with minds embittered and full of resentment; and finding no redress from the Company, they make a point of discouraging others from going thither, by magnifying the distresses they have undergone, without mentioning a single circumstance to counter-balance them. But there are others, that from very different motives, give an impression of the country not at all to its advantage; who rather than not establish a character for capacity and resolution, do it at the