

N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Mr. MEARS's MEMORIAL, dated 30th April 1790.

( 14 Inclosures. )

To the Right Honourable William Wyndham Grenville, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

The MEMORIAL of JOHN MEARS, Lieutenant in His Majesty's Navy,

Most humbly sheweth,

**T**HAT early in the Year 1786, certain Merchants residing in the East Indies, and under the immediate Protection of the Company, desirous of opening a Trade with the North West Coast of America, for supplying the Chinese Market with Furs and Ginseng, communicated such Design to Sir John Macpherson, the Governor General of India, who not only approved of the Plan, but joined in the Subscription for its Execution; and Two Vessels were accordingly purchased, and placed under the Orders and Command of your Memorialist.

That in the Month of March, your Memorialist dispatched One of the said Vessels, which he named *The Sea Otter*, under the Command of Mr. Tipping, to Prince William's Sound, and followed her in the other Ship, which he named *The Nootka*.

That on your Memorialist's Arrival in Prince William's Sound, in the Month of September, he found the *Sea Otter* had left that Place a few Days before; and, from Intelligence he has since received, that Ship was soon after unfortunately lost off the Coast of Kamschatka.

That your Memorialist remained in Prince William's Sound the whole of the Winter, in the Course of which Time he opened an extensive Trade with the Natives, and having collected a Cargo of Furs, he proceeded to China, in the Autumn of 1787.

That in the Month of January 1788, your Memorialist having disposed of the *Nootka*, he, in Conjunction with several British Merchants residing in India, purchased and fitted out Two other Vessels, named *The Felice* and *Ipbigenia*; the former your Memorialist commanded, and the latter he put under the Direction of Mr. William Douglas. That your Memorialist proceeded from China to the Port of Nootka, or King George's Sound, which he reached in the Month of May, and the *Ipbigenia* arrived in Cook's River in the Month of June.

That your Memorialist, immediately on his Arrival in Nootka Sound, purchased from Maquilla, the Chief of the District contiguous to and surrounding that Place, a Spot of Ground, whereon he built a House for his occasional Residence, as well as for the more convenient Pursuit of his Trade with the Natives, and hoisted the British Colours thereon; that he also erected a Breast Work, which surrounded the House, and mounted One Three-pounder in the Front; that having so done, your Memorialist proceeded to trade on the Coast, the *Felice* taking her Route to the Southward, and the *Ipbigenia* to the Northward, confining themselves within the Limits of 60° and 45° 30' North, and returned to Nootka Sound in the Month of September; that on your Memorialist's Arrival there, his People, whom he had left behind, had nearly completed a Vessel, which previous to his Departure he had laid down; and that the said Vessel was soon after launched by your Memorialist, and called *The North West America*, measuring about 40 Tons, and was equipped with all Expedition to assist him in his Enterprizes.

That during the Absence of your Memorialist from Nootka Sound, he obtained from Wickananih, the Chief of the District surrounding Port Cox and Port Effingham, situated

A

in