

Being asked, Whether lowering the Standard of the *Hudson's Bay Company* Fifty per Cent. or settling Factories, would tend most to increase the Trade? he said, He was not a competent Judge of that; but in his Opinion the building of Factories would be the better Method.

That he makes no doubt but the Company would trade higher up in the Country, if they thought it advantageous; but he cannot say whether Strangers could go higher, or carry on a better Trade; but if the Trade was laid open, he apprehends more Goods would be brought, because many People would carry small Quantities of Goods up the Rivers, and get great Part of the Trade from the French; and that he don't imagine the separate Traders could carry on Trade at the Factories; but that they would go up into the Country, where there is no Danger from the Cold, which is much more intense at the Factories.

That the Governor at *Albany* had a Garden in which Peas, Beans, Turnips, and Sallad, grew as good and plentiful as in *England*; but he never knew Seed raised in that Country sown again; that he saw a small Quantity of Barley growing near *Moose River* in *August* which is about Two Months before the cold Weather, which Barley was in the Ear, but not full; but as he has never been used to Tillage, he is a very indifferent Judge in those Matters.

That he saw Fir-trees on the Banks of *Albany River* 35 or 40 Foot long, and 14 or 16 Inches square at Bottom, and 10 at the Top, and here and there a small Stick of Birch; that there are a great many other small Pines; but he does not know whether Pitch or Tar could be made from them, having never seen a Trial.

That some Settlement must be made before any Trade could be carried on, and he does not know any Part of the Country near the Bay, where they could be more advantageously placed, than where the Company's Forts at present are; but he is unacquainted with any of the Rivers, except those where the present Settlements are; that he apprehends that private Persons would not by making a Settlement gain an exclusive Right to trade there; but that the next Ships that came would make use of it; nevertheless he apprehends such private Adventurers would undertake it even under that Disadvantage.

That the Country affords Plenty of Fish, Whalebone and Oil; that there is also Timber; but the Witness is not sure whether it is worth bringing Home; nor does he know whether it would afford Pitch and Tar; that he knows of no Mines there, nor ever saw any great Quantities of Whalebone; for the Vessels don't go constantly; but if they went yearly, he thinks they would bring great Quantities of Oil and Bone; but he does not know whether this is so good a Place as *Davis's Straights* for Whale-fishing, not being acquainted with the Whale Fishery; nor can he tell what Quantity of Bone might be had.

That the Company have some Sloops to send up Rivers, and trade Coastwise with the Natives; one of which was sent a Year or Two to trade with the *Esquimaux*, and then left off that Trade a Year or Two: There is also a Sloop manned with Eight Men, which winters in *Slude River* for the Coast Trade.

That the Witness has heard from Indians that there are Nations higher in the Country with whom the Trading Indians are always at War; and some of the Slaves taken from those Nations have traded with the Company; that the Witness thinks a Trade might be opened with the neighbouring Indians, by means of Presents; that the People with whom the Trading Indians are at War, are, at the Distance of Two or Three Months Journey up in the Country, where the Weather is warmer; and the People going up to trade must winter there; that the Natives are not a warlike People, being expert in nothing but Bush fighting; that possibly

they might lie in wait for a Man; but he must be guarded by the neighbouring Indians; and if the Witness himself was a young Man, he would undertake to go; that the Disposition of the Indians who trade with the Company is sociable and free: Some of them, the Witness believes, will steal, and others will not; but in general Theft is looked upon as a heinous Crime amongst them; but when drunk they are apt to be quarrelsome; that no one dares maltreat them but the Governor; and he sometimes will beat them; but the Company's Instructions to the Governor are to use them civilly; that the Witness has seen Copper Ornaments about the Indians.

That he apprehends the Countries adjoining to *Hudson's Bay* might be settled and improved; and that in the Southern Parts Oats, Barley, and Peas, would grow; but if Persons were allowed to settle, he does not apprehend they could at first subsist by the Cultivation of Lands only; that he does not know why the Company don't grow their own Corn, nor whether any Proposal has been made to them for that Purpose; for he really thinks Corn would grow there; which certainly would tend much to the Advantage of the Company, as well as to the Security of Persons residing there; that their common Provisions are Fish and Fowl; and they have no Bread but what comes from *England*; that all Corn keeps there very well, except Peas; that in a general Way they have Two Years Provisions beforehand in their Forts, especially of Bread.

Being asked, If the Indians could not cultivate Corn for One-third of the Price it costs in *Europe*? he said, The Indians are in general a slothful People, and cultivate no Indian Corn; but eat Flesh instead of it; that he never heard of any Attempts made by the Factors to civilize these People; nor is it an easy Matter to be attained, since it would be necessary in that case to bring them up to Labour from their Youth; that every European in the Company's Service is positively ordered not to converse, trade, or traffick with the Indians, directly or indirectly, on Pain of forfeiting all his Wages; and he is further subject to be punished at the Governor's Pleasure, who has ordered one of the Company's Servants to be put in Irons, and whipped, for that Offence; and that when the Witness talked with the Indians, as he mentioned before, he was authorized to do it by the Governor.

And being asked, Whether he had ever known a Man whipped for no other Crime but talking with the Indians? he said, He had known one Man, whose Name was *Adam Farquar*, whipped for being taken in an Indian Tent in the trading Time of the Year, conversing with an Indian contrary to the Governor's Orders; which Orders are hung up in the several Forts, and consist, for the most Part, of Paragraphs out of the Company's Letters, declaring that you are not allowed to act in such and such a manner; and among other Restrictions, forbidding Trade or converse with the Indians, on Pain of corporal Punishment.

That the Witness believes, that the Company's Servants would trade, if they were not prohibited; that they would often part with their wearing Cloaths or Victuals for that purpose.

And being asked, Whether the said *Farquar* was not punished for conversing with an Indian Woman; and whether if the Europeans were allowed to converse with the Women, it would not drive away the Indians? he said, He believed not; for the Indians were a sensible People, and agree their Women should be made use of.

That he believes the Indians would kill no more Beasts than what is sufficient to purchase Commodities for the Year, as he has seen them act in the same manner, with regard to Venison; and he does not know, whether, if they could have an advanced Price for their Goods, they would not bring down fewer Skins than they do at present.

That