

whatever, would persuade us to countenance the smallest deviation from it in the person and acts of those we employ.

Reports having been spread of great acts of cruelty and inhumanity being committed by the crews of various vessels on the coast of America, in their commerce with the natives, we now embrace the earliest opportunity of expressing our utter abhorrence of such hostile acts: we sincerely hope that no person or persons in our employ will have cause to be reproached of any thing in this kind—acts which we never will countenance or protect; on the contrary, we shall use every means in our power to have the perpetrators punished; we therefore most particularly order, that, in the course of your command, if any person or persons whatever in our employ shall commit any murder on the natives of America, or on others, that you seize the offenders, and put them in irons, and send them to the agents in China, in order that they may be brought to condign punishment; we are here necessitated to dwell on this subject, from the strong reports of such atrocious acts being committed, which are at once not only destructive of the commerce, but of every sentiment of humanity; we recommend a steady pursuance of a mild conduct, as the only means to cultivate the good will of the natives, and draw them within the verges of civilised life.

We recommend to you, if possible, to form a treaty with the various Chiefs, particularly near Nootka. If you happily accomplish this, you at once become possessed of the furs of a great district with honour and credit, and without incurring a stigma; and, if there is a possibility of conquering our competitors, we beg it may be in a mode so honourable to ourselves as generosity and humanity, and also a strict attention to our business.

On the strength of a treaty we form considerable hopes; for although at the moment it may not be productive, yet in time it will be found the most stable way of accomplishing our wishes, and gaining the confidence of the Chiefs, who are known to manage the commerce of their subjects: for this purpose we have
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