

three Martin Skins for one, to give their Wives to make them fine. The Martins they take in Traps, for if they shot them, their Skins would be spoiled; they have generally five or six at a Litter.

He says the Natives are so discouraged in their Trade with the Company, that no Peltry is worth the Carriage, and the finest Furs are sold for very little. When they came to the Factory in *June* 1742, the Prices they took for the *European* Goods were much higher than the settled Prices fixed by the Company, which the Governors fix so, to shew the Company how zealous they are to improve their Trade, and sell their Goods to Advantage. He says they gave but a Pound of Gunpowder for 4 Beavers, a Fathom of Tobacco for 7 Beavers, a Pound of Shot for one, an Ell of coarse Cloth for 15, a Blanket for 12, 2 F<sup>ur</sup>-hooks, or three Flints, for one, a Gun for 25, a Pistol for 10, a common Hat with white Lace 7, an Ax 4, a Bill-hook 1, a Gallon of Brandy 4, a chequer'd Shirt 7, all which are sold at a monstrous Profit, even to 2000 *per Cent*. Notwithstanding this Discouragement, the two Fleets which went down with him, and parted at the great Fork, carried down 200 Packs of 100 each, 20000 Beavers; and the other *Indians* who arrived that Year, he computed carried down 300 Packs of 200 each, 30000, in all 50000 Beavers, and above 9000 Martins.

The Furs there are much more valuable than the Furs upon the *Canada* Lakes, sold at *New-York*; for these will give five or six Shillings *per* Pound, when the others sell at three Shillings and Sixpence. He says, that if a Fort was built at the great Fork, 60 Leagues above *York* Fort, and a Factory with *European* Goods were fixed there, and a reasonable Price was put upon *European* Goods, that the Trade would be wonderfully increased; for the Natives from the Southward of *Pachegoia*, could make at least two Returns in a Summer, and those at greater Distances could make one, who can't now come at all; and above double the Number would be employed in Hunting, and many more Skins would be brought to Market, that they can't now afford to bring for the Expence and low Price given for them. The Stream is so gentle from the Fork to *York* Fort, on either Branch, that large Vessels and Shallops may be built there, and carry down bulky Goods, and also return again against the Stream; and the Climate is good,