

logs would shake such a foundation to pieces ; as if a brick of five or six pounds could bear more force than a stone of ten times the weight. The stones upon the flats are hard and white ; and not only fit for a foundation, but for strong walls : I have seen very good walls built with much worse. But notwithstanding this abundant plenty of good stone, they have persisted in building their forts with wood, and upon no other foundation than logs laid level in the ground ; the consequence of which is, that they are reduced to rebuild them every twenty-five or thirty years : whereas if they had laid down a stone-foundation, the forts would have lasted three times as long, and saved the Company two thirds of the expence.

In the year 1745 I wrote a letter to the Company, upon the comparative advantages of building their foundations at least, with stone rather than wood ; in which I represented,

“ THAT the evil of being obliged to rebuild their  
 “ forts every twenty-five or thirty years, could  
 “ not be remedied but by laying their foundations in  
 “ a different manner, or making them of different  
 “ materials. Logs laid in the ground, tho’ of the  
 “ very best oak, must be subject to unavoidable  
 “ decay from the wet that continually surrounds  
 “ them ; and it was well known, that the timber  
 “ in the upper works of every building will endure  
 “ many years longer than the timber at the bottom,  
 “ if it be not raised high enough to preserve it  
 “ from the damps of the earth.

“ THAT in those parts of England where stone  
 “ and brick are scarce, they drive pieces of oak  
 “ into the ground two or three feet deep, whose  
 “ upper ends are tenanted into the under side of  
 “ the fill or bottom of the timber house, support-  
 “ ing it a foot or more above the ground, and the  
 “ spaces between these piles are filled up with flints  
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