

those Ships, if you can induce the Commanders to trade on our joint Account, it will be most agreeable to us; but no trading Connections whatever must be, except on Account of the present Company. To the Person intrusted with the Command of those Ships you will make known the Nature of our Connections with Mr. Etches; you will in Consequence make a Demand of all their Surplus Stores, or Articles of Commerce, &c. that they have to dispose of, in Order that they may be left in the Factory; and a particular Account must be taken of all that are delivered, as they must be accounted for to Mr. Etches by the Company. We have no Doubt but that your Requisition will be complied with, as it ultimately tends to the Good of their Employers.

The Number of Competitors you will meet with on the Coast will, we fear, somewhat diminish your Collection of Furs, as well as enhance their Price; we have no Doubt of your Activity and Perseverance, as well as Address in your Negotiations. We place the strongest Reliance on your Vigilance and Caution, and as we have conferred on you the most ample Powers, in Return we look for considerable Responsibility, and a happy Completion of our Plans. In a full Persuasion of this we shall take our Leave, with a strong Recommendation of Unanimity amongst your Officers, and the strictest Discipline over your People. We wish you Health and a prosperous Voyage, and remain, &c.

J. MEARS,  
For Messrs. Etches, Cox, and C<sup>o</sup>.

### N<sup>o</sup> 3.

EXTRACTS of a Letter from Mr. Mears to Captain Colnett;  
dated Macao, 25 April 1789.

*In Mr. Mears's Memorial of the 30th April 1790.*

*To accompany Inclosure (N<sup>o</sup> 1.)*

"WE have well-founded Information, that Mr. Jaques, Mate of the Princess Royal, gave Copies of his own and Captain Hudson's Journals and Charts to Captain Metcalf, who commanded an American Ship when he was in China. This Act of Mr. Jaques we esteem to militate so extremely against himself and our Service, that we desire you to return him to China.

Our Displeasure is no less pointed against Mr. Gibson, one of your Officers, whose Acts of Inhumanity, exercised on the Coast of America, render him extremely unfit to be employed in our Service; you will therefore return him to China. Those Circumstances relative to the above Persons did not come to our Knowledge till after the Departure of the Princess Royal from China, or we most assuredly would have embraced the earliest Opportunity of dismissing them our Service; but, with regard to Mr. Gibson, we have put the small Stock of his remaining Merit against his Situation, and our Promises prior to the Discovery of his Character, and we have formed the Resolution of employing him but one Season.

As the Dismissal of those Officers may put you to some Inconvenience, we shall write to Messrs. Sheppardson and Barnet to remain under your Command; and though they are, yet we are convinced of their Value, being entirely attached to Interest and Service."

"As it is probable, that in Autumn 1790 you may meet with a Store Ship from England, on the Company's Account, we have the strongest Hopes, should that Event happen, that from her you will form the entire Establishment of the Coast on such reasonable Terms under the present, that will meet our Satisfaction, and enable the Company, through the Medium of Economy, to destroy our Competitors. It is probable, however, that all those Engagements may be settled in England prior to the Departure of the Store Ship; in this Case you will resign the Charge of our Concerns to those who are appointed to manage the same, and return with the Officers and People who are impressed from China on the Store Ship, or the Argonaut, which ever you think most eligible; but we rather apprehend that, by the above Period, you will have so much Tonnage on the Coast, that it will be needless detaining the Argonaut, more particularly as we shall want her in 1791, to return her again to the Coast. We have nothing more to repeat, in Addition to the former Orders."