

NORTH-WEST COAST OF AMERICA.

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On the 26th, our principal furs, viz. the 2,552 otter; 434 cub, and 34 fox, were sold and delivered to the East India Company's Supercargoes, for 50,000 dollars.

1788.
January.

It should seem, that our Captains had only a mere negative in this business; but finding it impossible to obtain a better price, and it being high time to think of sailing, they were glad to close with this offer, though very far short of what we at one time had reason to expect: indeed there now were other reasons, and those very weighty ones, besides what I have already mentioned, for concluding this business. The furs brought by the Nootka had recently been sold for 9,750 dollars:---700 fine sea-otter skins, (the cargo of the Imperial Eagle, Captain Berkley) were in the hands of Mr. Beale, a principal Owner, and resident at Canton:---1,000 otter-skins were sent by the Spanish Missionaries from California, and that part of the coast towards King George's Sound, to Manilla, and from thence were lately arrived at Canton:---two French vessels which had been upon the American coast on discovery, and lately arrived at Macao, had picked up 200 fine sea otter-skins; add to this, a great number of black rabbit-skins and fur-seals, which are held in tolerable estimation here, had lately been brought from England: all these being in the market at once, quite glutted it, and had such an effect on the Chinese, that they scarcely thought furs worth taking away. These circumstances being duly considered, it certainly was the most prudent step our Captains could possibly take to close with the Supercargoes, as (exclusive of other considerations) by this means we were enabled to remit bills of exchange to our Owners, and our departure was greatly facilitated.

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