

Mr. Richard Norton,

London, May 3, 1734.

WE received your Letter to us, dated the 16th of August 1733, wherein you set forth the many Difficulties and Hardships you have gone through in taking long Journeys with the Natives, in order to improve our Trade, many times with the Hazard of your Life; and that you are at all times ready and willing to do the like, whenever the Interest of the Company shall require it. We are very sensible of your past Services, and are fully satisfied of your firm Resolution,

at all times to promote the Company's Interest and Advantage, with the utmost of your Power. We are well satisfied with the Methods you have taken with the Natives at *Churchill* River, to increase our Trade there, with the Northern Indians, and your Usefulness and Diligence in forwarding our Undertaking in building the new Fort, which we shall not omit to take into Consideration at a proper time.

To Mr. Richard Norton and Council at *Prince of Wales's* Fort.

London, 18 May 1738.

WE must recommend to you to encourage as much as possible, the Indians that are to the Northward of your Factory, and endeavour to increase your Trade with them; and also try to bring the *Esquimaix* that harbour about *Sir Bibe's*, and the other Islands, to trade with you; whereby you may get Oil and Whalebone, and encourage them to bring you a constant Supply.

As there are Plenty of Deer in your Parts, we do direct you to send us over as many of the Skins as you can procure, that we may see whether they will turn to Advantage.

You must also encourage the Western and Northern Indians to bring you what Quantity of Moose or Elk Skins they can procure.

From Richard Norton,

*Churchill* River, August 17, 1738.

I Had very great Hopes, that the Trade this Year would have been much more, till the First of this Summer, that Fifty Northern Indians came to trade, upon Inquiry, to my Grief, I found that no more Indians of those Parts would be here this Season, by reason that all the rest of their Countrymen, that were here last Summer, which was, at least 300 Men, was put to such Streights in the Winter, as they were obliged

to destroy for Sustenance what Goods they had got; and that their Calamities were so great, that many of them perished with Hunger.

I shall continue my utmost Endeavours to promote and encourage your trade, from all Parts, according to your Orders. Shall take all possible Care to procure what Deer and Elk Skins I can.

To Mr. Richard Norton and Council at *Prince of Wales's* Fort.

London, 17 May 1739.

WE confirm our Orders of last Year, to encourage, as much as possible, the Indians, that are to the Northward of your Factory, and to endeavour to increase your Trade with them; which we hope you will be able to effect.

We do order and direct, That the *Churchill* Sloop be launched, and fitted out every Year, as early as possible, in the Spring, to sail to *Pistol Bay*, *Whale Cove*, along the Western Coast, trading with the Natives that are there, and among the Islands, in June and July.

And for the Master of the Sloop's Encouragement,

and the Sailors Incitement to do their Duty, the Committee will order to be carried to the Account, in Credit of the Master of the Sloop, Five per Cent. of the neat Produce of the Profit of the said Trade; and another Five per Cent. of said Profit to be divided equally among the Sloops Company, and carried to their respective Accounts, and paid them when they come home.

We have sent you a full Indent of Trading Goods and Stores; and, that you may be complete in your Accounts, we have sent the Particulars of those Articles, in which you are deficient.

From Richard Norton and Council.

16th August 1739.

WE shall take care to observe your Orders, in sending the Sloop to the Northward.

We do apprehend here ought to be, at least, Two

Years Stock of all Sorts, in case of Accident in Shipping (which God forbid!), promising you that here shall be great Care taken of all Species.

To Mr. Richard Norton and Council at *Prince of Wales's* Fort.

London, 1 May 1740.

WE are well pleased to see so good a Cargo from you, and hope your Trade will annually increase without taking any from *York* Fort; whereby in time it may answer the great Charge we have been at.

We hope the Sloop went on the Expedition ordered, and do not doubt but that if she was dispatched very early in the Spring, to have some Trade with the Northern Natives.

We have sent you full Indent of Trading Goods,

Stores, and Provisions; and instead of 150 Blankets, which we thought might be too few, we have sent 225. The Flannel, now sent, we have chose out of a thicker Sort, but yet very fine, and good. Let us know whether the Size of the Crown of the Hats are pleasing to the Natives.

Recommending the using your utmost Endeavours to promote and increase the Company's Trade, we remain.

From