

DEPOSITION of the Officers and Men of the Schooner North West America.

In Mr. Mear's Memorial of 30th April 1790. (N^o 7.)

WE the undermentioned Captain and Seamen of the N. W. America, a Vessel of 40 Tons Burthen or thereabouts, built in King George's Sound, on the North West Coast of America, by Captain John Meares, Agent for the Society of British Merchants trading to those Parts, and launched under the Colours of Great Britain, make Oath before the Chief Supercargo of the Honourable East India Company resident at Canton :

That in the Month of September, in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-eight, the Carpenters of the said John Meares did, with the Assistance of divers Natives of America, build, launch, and equip a Schooner of Forty Tons, or thereabouts, in the Sound or Port discovered by the late Captain James Cook, and named by him King George's Sound, in Honour of our Most Gracious Sovereign; that the said John Meares, did name the said Vessel the N. W. America, as the First Vessel ever built in that Part of the World; that she was equipped at a great and heavy Expence of Stores, Tackle, and Furniture, particularly of Iron, the most valuable Commodity in those Parts; that all those Stores, Iron, &c. were conveyed to the American Coast, with infinite Labour, Cost, Charge, and Expences, on the Ship *Iphigenia*, as appears by her Books of Outfit and Equipment; that the said John Meares did appoint Mr. Robert Funter, Master of the N. W. America, deeming him a full and sufficient Person to conduct her Commerce and Guidance, and also did appoint Peter Henny, Robert Davidson, and John East, Quarter Masters of the said Schooner, as well as Thomas Thistlewood, William Graham, and John Clarke, Mariners, all Subjects of the Crown of Great Britain, and also Assing, a Native of China, a Carpenter, and Assie and Aehaw, Mariners of the same Country, to compose her Crew, to trade along the North West Coast of America, on Account and for the Benefit of the Associated Merchants of Great Britain trading to those Parts; and that we the above mentioned People have been paid our full and just Wages agreeable to Justice, from the Time of our First sailing from China until the Time of our Return, as the Books of Outfit will shew, and agreeable to our Receipts.

That on the 9th of June 1789, being returned to King George's Sound from a trading Expedition amongst the Charlotte's Isles, unsuspecting Enemies or other hostile Attacks, there did come from thence Boats manned and equipped for War, commanded by Don Joseph Stephen Martinez, Commander of Two Ships of War of his Catholic Majesty then in King George's Sound, and did tow or convey the said N. W. America, her Crew, Tackle, Cargo, and Furniture, into the said Sound, and did Anchor her close to the Spanish Ships of War, and then did take Possession of the Schooner, her Tackle, Cargo, Furniture, Goods, and Chattels of the Associated Merchants, in the Name of his Catholic Majesty, as a good and lawful Prize.

That the said Schooner N. W. America did barter and trade with the Natives of the North West Coast of America, for Two hundred and Fifteen Sea Otter Skins of good and prime Quality; that the said Number of Two hundred and Fifteen Sea Otter Skins, were put on Board of the Sloop *Princes Royal*, of London, belonging to the Associated Merchants, for their Use and Advantages.

That the said Robert Funter and his Crew were removed Prisoners on Board the said Spanish Ships of War, to their Vexation, Detriment, and Loss; and that the said Schooner N. W. America was taken out of his Care, and given up to the Plunder of the Subjects of his Catholic Majesty; that the Colours of Spain were hoisted on Board the said N. W. America; that every Formality was used by the Spaniards, by sprinkling Holy Water, &c. on the above Vessel, in order to cover their unjust and cruel Proceedings.

That the Quantity of Trade and Commerce on Board the N. W. America, when taken by the Spaniards, was great and considerable; and that being in Want of Provisions, she returned to King George's Sound, in the sole Hopes of meeting with some of the Ships of the Associated Merchants, to receive from them the Supplies wanted; that Numbers of Skins were left behind amongst the Charlotte's Isles; and we do aver to the best of our Belief, that had there been sufficient Provisions on Board the Schooner, so as to have permitted her further Stay, that One thousand Sea Otter Skins would have been collected, in Addition