

fashion of every lord present. When it was finished, I requested to know what I should do with my papers; without hesitation the first lord replied, that I might publish them whenever I pleased. In consequence of this permission, I disposed of them to a bookseller; but when they were nearly ready for the press, an order was issued from the council board, requiring me to deliver, without delay, into the plantation office, all my Charts and Journals, with every paper relative to the discoveries I had made. In order to obey this command, I was obliged to repurchase them from the bookseller at a very great expense and deliver them up. This fresh disbursement I endeavored to get annexed to the account I had already delivered in; but the request was denied me, notwithstanding I had only acted, in the disposal of my papers, conformably to the permission I had received from the board of trade. This loss, which amounted to a very considerable sum, I was obliged to bear, and to rest satisfied with an indemnification for my other expenses.

Thus situated, my only expectations are from the favor of a generous public; to whom I shall now communicate my Plans, Journals, and Observations, of which I luckily kept copies, when I delivered the originals into the plantation office. And this I do the more readily, as I hear they are mislaid; and there is no probability of their ever being published. To those who are interested in the concerns of the interior parts of North America, from the contiguity of their possessions, or commercial engagements, they will be extremely useful, and fully repay the sum at which they are purchased. To those who, from a laudable curiosity, wish to be acquainted with the manners and customs of every inhabitant of this globe, the accounts here given of the various nations that inhabit so vast a tract of it, a country hitherto almost unexplored, will furnish an ample fund of amusement, and gratify their most curious expectations. And I flatter myself they will be as favorably received by the public, as descriptions of islands, which afford no other entertainment than what arises from their novelty; and discoveries, that seem to prom-

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