

ever regained; Wherefore the Governor and Committee humbly hope their Lordships will be pleased to give their Orders strictly commanding and forbidding the said Captain *Middleton*, That upon no Account whatever (except in Case of the before-mentioned Distress) he do attempt to come into any of the Company's Harbours, or Winter at any of their Factories; and that he be restrained from interfering in their Trade, and invading the Property, Rights, and Privileges, granted to the Company by Letters Patents by his late Majesty King *Charles* the Second Anno 1670, and possessed by the Company ever since, and that he be directed and enjoined not to give any Disturbance, Lett, Hindrance, or Molestation, to any of the Ships, or Sloops employed in their Service, or infringe their Liberties by Trading with any of the Natives, or Settling on any of the Lands or Territories granted to the Company by the aforesaid Letters Patents, or be permitted to Sail after he Enters the Bay to the Southward of *Cape Diggs*, in the Latitude of 62° 45' which the Company hope and pray their Lordships will readily Grant, in Regard there can be no Pretence of even supposing a Passage that Way, and consequently cannot in the least obstruct Captain *Middleton's* Expedition, if it be only for to find a North-west Passage to the *South Sea* and *Japan*. The Company notwithstanding the great Losses they have sustained from time to time by the *French*, to the Amount of above One hundred thousand Pounds, have, with great Cost and Charges, supported the Trade, and with Care and Industry, endeavoured to preserve, secure, and increase the same to the Benefit of this Kingdom, whereby his Majesty's Customs have been advanced, and Beaver Wool reduced to such a moderate Price, that many Thousands of his Majesty's Subjects are thereby employed in the Hatting Trade.