

A P P E N D I X.

Nº II.

COPY of a LETTER from MR. MEARES to CAPTAIN COLNETT,  
*dated 17th APRIL, 1789.*

[In Mr. Meares's Memorial of 30th April, 1790. No. I.]

MACAO, 17th April, 1789.

S I R,

SO soon as the Argonaut is ready for sea, you will proceed on your voyage, and put into execution the several plans we have laid down, and with which you are so thoroughly acquainted; you are also so perfectly informed of the basis they are founded on, that any recapitulation here would be needless. We place the strongest reliance on your perseverance, temper and prudence, and are convinced that our hopes can only be matured but through an exertion of those dispositions. We strenuously recommend a moderate use of the powers you are invested with, not only in your transactions with ships of foreign nations,—who must be treated with that good faith and generosity which form the characteristic of the English nation, and which must turn ultimately to the honour and credit of your employers,—but to all ships of our own nation, to whom we desire you to be particularly attentive in cases of distress, or any other calamitous situation they may be thrown into. We impress on your mind this point, not only for the honour and credit resulting to us from such a liberal line of conduct, but from the absolute necessity of avoiding all subject of dispute with foreign powers: we hope that no motive whatever will induce you to deviate from this point, as we assure you, that a commerce that is not carried on with honour and respectability, as well as humanity, would be entirely repugnant to our feelings as men, and characters as British merchants,—a character, which appears to us in so respectable a light, that no emolument, no advantage whatever, would persuade us to countenance the smallest deviation from it in the persons and acts of those we employ.

Reports having been spread of great acts of cruelty and inhumanity being committed by the crews of various vessels on the coast of America, in their commerce with the natives, we now embrace the earliest opportunity of expressing our utter abhorrence of such hostile acts: we sincerely hope that no person or persons in our employ, will have cause to be reproached with any thing of this kind—acts, which we never will countenance or protect; on the contrary, we shall use every means in our power to have the perpetrators punished. We therefore most particularly order, that if, in the course of your command, any person or persons whatever, in our employ, shall commit any murder on the natives of

America,