

That during the Time the Witness was at *York Fort*, the Company's Servants were treated well, but while he was at *Prince of Wales's Fort*, very indifferently with regard to Provisions: That the Company's Servants carry no Goods, being forbid to trade with the Indians, even for their own Provisions; and that he never knew any of the Company's People sent on Discoveries into the inland Parts; that there are trading Indians who come from the North, Thirty or Thirty-five in a Gang, and generally in the Winter; they bring their Provisions along with them, which consist of the Flesh of Deer, Beaver, or what other Animals they can catch, which is dried quite hard, and reduced to a Powder like Meal; that there is Grass in Abundance in the Northern Parts, a Yard high; but, in the Opinion of the Witness, Corn would not grow there; but that he had eat Peas and Beans which grew at *York Fort*, in Latitude 57 Deg. but never knew any other Corn tried there; that the Quantity of Peas and Beans he speaks of, was as much as Six or Eight People could eat; but there are a thousand Acres of Ground in Latitude 57 Deg. which, if cultivated, would produce the same, and a much larger Tract to the Southward; that the Peas and Beans grew by common Cultivation, without any Force, but the Produce was not so large as in *England*.

And being asked, If it would not be a great Advantage to the Company to grow Corn at *York Fort*, or their other Settlements? he said, It would doubtless be so, and it was reasonable to think they would do it; but there were many Things not done, which would be of great Advantage besides that; and there must be some secret Cause for it, to which the Witness was a Stranger.

Being asked, How long the Frost was out of the Ground at *York Fort*? he said, It was hardly ever quite out of it; for he had dug Three Foot and an Half deep, and then found a Shell of Ice, under which the Ground was all soft; that the place he dug in was low Ground about 13 Foot from High-water Mark, never having an Opportunity to dig up in the Country; but the Surface of the Ground was free, from the latter end of *May*; to the latter End of *August*; and in the Summer they have Eighteen Hours Sun at *Churchill*; that by the Accounts of the People coming down, the Frost breaks some Months sooner up in the Country; that the Cold in Winter may be endured without any Inconveniency, their Cloathing being adapted to the Climate; that the Witness has suffered more from Cold in this Country, than ever he did there; that Flesh will freeze; but he never knew any Person lose his Fingers; that the Soil will bear Roots, such as Carrots, Radishes, and Turnips; it also produces Coleworts, all which Roots and Greens grow in as great Perfection as they do here; but he don't know whether the Seed produced there will grow again; and he don't think there are Two Acres cultivated at both the Factories where he has resided; that the Factories are in part subsisted by killing Geese, Fowl, and Deer; they have likewise a certain Grain which they call Rice, but no Pulse; and if the Land at the Bottom of the Bay was properly cultivated, the Produce would support Numbers of People.

That he has seen Oxen and Horses belonging to the Company at *Prince of Wales's Fort*, which were brought from *England*, and fed with Hay and Corn, the Hay being got there, and made into Stacks; and they catch Fish in the Summer Season, and till near *Christmas*.

That he apprehends, there are Indians higher in the Country, besides those the Company trade with; for it was commonly reported at *York Fort*, that some Indians were coming down who had never been there before; but were prevented by being overfet in a Stream, and lost their Goods.

That there was no Settlement at *Nelson's River* when the Witness was there; but he apprehends it the properest Place for a Settlement, though *Hayes's River* is within Six Miles of it, upon which *York Fort* stands; but the Works might be carried on at *Nelson's* in a much better manner.

That he apprehends the Country might be settled and inhabited, if People would go up the Rivers till they find a better Climate, and there erect Settlements; that he does not doubt but he himself could find Three or Four hundred British Subjects, who would willingly go there to live Winter and Summer, and the Witness would go for one; that he would advise them in that Case, to go up, Eight or Ten in Company, till they come to a warmer Climate; and the Ships that come to fetch their Goods, might bring them Provisions; and in that case they might trade with the Natives all the Year round, and live as the Indians do; that he would venture to go up into the Country with Six or Seven in Company, as far as the Rivers run; and that they could carry on Traffic without understanding the Language; that he never was up among the Indians, and believes the Factor would not have allowed it, having always understood his Orders were quite the contrary, and that the Company never send People up into the Country.

Being asked, If the Company would grant Lands to private Persons, it would not be sufficient Encouragement? he said, That Lands so far to the Northward would not do.

Being asked, If any Person could maintain himself and a Family at the Bottom of the Bay, by Cultivation of Lands, or any Trade whatever, except the Fur Trade? he said, Not at first; that the Company buy up all the Furs that are brought to the Fort, and killed in Season; but they don't take proper Measures to get all the Furs they can; for in the Opinion of the Witness, if Persons were sent among the Natives to encourage them, they would bring down many more.

*Mr. Richard White* said, He went to *Albany Fort* in the Year 1726, as Clerk to the Company, and stayed there Seven Years; that he had been Ten Years at *Churchill*, which is the Northernmost Fort; and had also been at *Moose River*, which is the Southernmost; that his Business was to take Account of Goods, and to balance the Accounts; that all the Forts, except *Churchill* and the *Prince of Wales's Fort*, are built of Wood, and the Number of People in each Fort is uncertain; that the Complement of Europeans at *Albany Fort*, was 24; that he went over to *Churchill* in the Capacity of Second, which he explained to be the Person, who, in case of the Governor's Death or Removal, is to succeed him; that this is no more than an empty Title, and he can give no Account of the Method of Trade, other than what is carried on at *Albany*, where he acted as Clerk, as aforesaid; and he is not at present in the Company's Service, having served out the Time of his Contract, and not desiring to renew it, and that his Resignation was voluntary: That the Trade consists of Beavers, Furs, Pelts, and Feathers, which the Indians bring down in Canoes, the Company never sending out Persons to traffick with them; that the Method of Trade with the Indians is fixed by a Standard delivered to the Governors by the Company, and they never trade lower than that Standard directs; but they generally double the Standard, that is, where the Standard directs One Skin to be taken, they generally take Two; that he does not know whether this is done by direction of the Company, nor how the Governor disposes of the extraordinary Profit arising by this Advance of the Standard.

And being asked, If he thought the Governor would do his Duty, if he did not purchase the Goods at the cheapest