

Company had thus neglected the improvement of their own trade, and discouraged a more extensive one by industriously preventing people from settling about the Bay, and improving the lands and fisheries there, they had not taken care to check the incroachments of the French, who are daily increasing and extending their Fur-trade within land to the south-westward and westward of the bay, among the lakes and near the sources of the several rivers upon which the Company have made settlements. The chief trading cities and towns of Great Britain, therefore, from a just concern for their own interest and the interest of their country, which are inseparably united, in the year 1749 petitioned the parliament against the Company's charter.

To support the allegations contained in these petitions, several persons were examined before a committee of the honourable house of commons *appointed to enquire into the state and condition of the countries about Hudson's-Bay, and the trade carried on there.* Of these I was one: but for want of confidence, and an ability to express myself clearly, the account I then gave was far from being so exact and full as that which I intended to have given. And, indeed, it is impossible, from all the accounts united, to form a just idea, either of the countries about Hudson's-Bay, or the Company's management of the trade: I am acquainted with several of the witnesses, and know that they omitted upon their examination many important