

the Head of *Rupert's* River, and near *Moose* River, within three Days Journey of their Factory, betraying the *English* Right to that Part of the Bay, by giving up the Possession to the *French* by their Weakness, and have lost the Trade there to them by their Avarice, upon account of the exorbitant Gain they take upon their Goods from the Natives of near 2000 *per Cent.* Profit, taking a Beaver Skin, worth from eight to nine Shillings in *England*, for a Quart of *English* Spirits, mixed with a Third Water, which probably may cost them a Groat; they also in Exchange value three Martins or Sable Skins at one Beaver, when the *French* give as much for a Martin as for a Beaver; so that the Natives carry all their best Furs to the *French*, and leave them the Refuse; for which Reason, and the *French* giving them Goods at a cheaper Rate than the Company, all the Eastern and Southern Trade is in a manner lost to the *French*, and a considerable Part of the South-western Trade, they scarce preserving the Trade at *York* Fort and *Churchill* River to themselves; so that were the Trade laid open, and the Southern and Western Countries settled, we might not only regain that Trade from the *French*, which would probably increase our Profit from 40000 *l.* which the Company gain at present upon their Trade, to 100000 *l.* but we might in a short Time increase it to 200000 *l.* by supplying the Natives with Woollen Goods, Iron Tools, Guns, Powder and Shot, at reasonable Rates; for by this Treatment, and fixing Factories for Goods higher up the Rivers, upon *Rupert's*, *Moose*, *Albany*, and *Nelson* Rivers; by having Markets nearer them, and cheaper, the Number of Hunters would increase, and would bring four times as many Furs, besides other valuable Skins, not worth the Carriage at present, and they would make two Returns for one, and many come from greater Distances, which don't now come at all; and we should have all that now perish and rot, and they use at home, by getting better and cheaper *European* Goods in Return, and a shorter and quicker Carriage to Market; this would make them more industrious, and would preserve the Lives of many of them who can't subsist now without Fire Arms and Iron Tools, having in great Measure lost the Use of Arrows, and instead of our exporting to the Value of 2 or 3000 *l.* which is the most the Company exports in one Season, we might export to the Value of 100000 *l.* in coarse Woollen and Iron Manufactures, Powder, Shot, Spirits, Tobacco, Paint,