

Hudson's-Bay-House, London,

May 27, 1741.

S I R,

Herewith inclosed, pursuant to the Desire of the Lords of the Admiralty, you receive a Copy of the Orders sent by the Governor and Committee of the *Hudson's-Bay Company*, to their Chief and Council at Prince of *Wales's Fort*, *Churchill River*, North *America*; That in Case Captain *Middleton* (who is going abroad in the Government's Service, to discover a Passage to the North-west) should, by inevitable Necessity be brought into real Distress and Danger of his Life, or the Loss of his Majesty's Ships under his Command, and by that Means forced to the said Fort, To give him the best Assistance and Relief they can, a Duplicate of which has been delivered to Captain *Middleton*: The Governor and Committee humbly crave Leave to represent to their Lordships, that in Case Captain *Middleton* should by any Means be detained or hindered from Entering the *Straits* early enough, to pursue the intended Expedition of a Discovery before the End of the Year, or that by any other Cause whatever (except by reason of the Distress before mentioned) he be inclined to Sail to and Winter in any of the Company's Factories; The Governor and Company apprehend the same will be the Destruction of their Trade and Factories, and will occasion the Natives to go and Trade with the *French*, who are very Watchful, and let no Opportunity slip of drawing and enticing the Natives away, and hindering them from Trading at the Company's Factories, and thereby the Company will run the utmost Hazard of losing their Trade, which if once lost, or a Distaste or Affront be given to the Natives, it will be with great Difficulty, if
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