

Way. These Indians killed many Deer for him, during the course of this Voyage; after which, Captain *Middleton* forced them out of his Ship with his own Hands, though they cried at his Treatment, and set them ashore in an Island: But the Witness has since heard that they did not perish.

After this, the Ships wintered there, and the Governors were moderate enough.

That the Company gave them no assistance to the Discovery; but he does not know, that any was applied for.

That upon the last Undertaking they met with great Obstructions; for, on coming towards the Shore, the Governor sent to cut down the Buoys, Beacons, and other Marks of Pilotage; though one of the Ships was aground, and the other far from being safe.

That on their complaining of this Treatment, the Governor's Answer was, That he had Orders from his Masters not to suffer any Ships to come there, but those of the Company, or his Majesty; that they had no private Signals, but had English Colours flying; and that they must know them to be Friends: For while they were cutting down the Beacons, they called to them to let them stand while the other Ship was safe; but they persisted, saying it was the Governor's Orders: And that the Governor himself sailed with them from *England*, and parted from them about 60 or 70 Leagues to the Westward of the *Orkneys*. And the Witness says, he never heard of any Spanish or French Privateers in the Bay during the late War; nor did he ever hear of any *East India* Ships there.

That the Cable of their Sheet Anchor was rendered almost useless by cutting it; which they were told, was done by one of the Governor's Ladies.

That the Governor, upon their Petition, furnished them with a Long-boat, which they could have done very well without, at the Price, as the Witness believes, of Ten or Twelve Guineas, though she was scarce fit for any thing but Fire-wood: There was no other Boat to be had there; nor was any Bargain made for her; but they told the Governor he should be satisfied, and she was to be paid for in *England*: That the furnishing them with this Boat was a Favour, but the Price demanded for it was an Imposition.

But, being asked the Question, he said, He did not know whether ever the Money had been paid.

That if they had had Liberty to trade, they could have subsisted without the Assistance of the Company, whose Treatment of them was not civil but quite the reverse, in cutting down the Buoys and Beacons, and preventing them from getting Shoes, Coats, and other Materials to keep them warm, which they did by sending People to prevent their trading, and sending their Indians away, which they were told by the Company's Servants, was done, that they should not get Provisions.

That the Governor supplied them with Shoes and Foggys, that is, Beaver Coats; but one Pair of Shoes is not sufficient for the Winter, and the Witness himself was allowed no more: That when they had great Numbers of Men sick of the Scurvy, they were told by the Natives that there were great Quantities of Deer killed and laid on Stages, which the Governor would not suffer to be brought down, that they might not enjoy the Benefit of them: Upon which the Witness said he wrote several Letters to the Governor, who, in a Month or Six Weeks, agreed to let them have Venison in exchange for Beef and Pork: That they carried some Small Beer from *England*, and dug Holes without the Factory to preserve it; but that the Governor had permitted some of their dry Provisions to be laid up in the Factory.

That the Governor allowed them Two Indians in the Spring to kill Geese and Partridges; but they were the

very worst he had, and did not kill enough for the Captain's Mefs; and that they consumed more Provision: and Brandy than their Geese and Partridges were worth.

That he believes the Reasons why they were prohibited from conversing with the Indians, was for fear of carrying on a clandestine trade, the same Orders being given to the Company's own Servants: That they had no Orders not to trade, but did not trade at all with these Indians; but had a little Trade with the *Eskimaux* for Bone and Oil, who, if they were properly encouraged, would get enough of these two Commodities to load a Ship or two every Year.

Being examined as to the Probability of a North West Passage; he said, He had the greatest Reason to believe there is one, from the Winds, Tides, and black Whales; and he thinks the Place to be at *Chesterfields' Inlet*: That the Reason of their coming back was they met the other Boat, which had been Five Leagues further, and the Crew told them the Water was much fresher and shallower there; but where the Witness was, the Water was Fifty Fathom deep, and the Tide very strong; the Ebb Six Hours, and the Flood Two, to the best of the Witness's Remembrance: That it is not common for the Tide to flow only Two Hours; but he imagines it to be obstructed by another Tide from the Westward; that the Rapidity of the Tide upwards was so great, that the Spray of the Water flew over the Bow of the Schooner; and was so salt, that it candied upon the Mens Shoes, but that the Tide did not run in so rapid a Manner the other Way.

That he tasted the Water brought down by the other Boat, as well as the Water where the Witness was; that the one was salt as the main Ocean, and the other not near so salt.

Being asked, If they did not steer North-west, the last time where *Middleton* steered North-east? he said, They did not go so far as *Middleton* in *Repulse Bay*; but that the Witness went up *Wager River* till he could have waded over it.

Being asked, If the Indians speak English? he said, Very few; that he, the Witness, undertook to teach an Indian Boy, and Governor *Stanton* ordered him to desist; adding, that he had a general Order from the Company, to all the Factories, that none of the Natives should be instructed at all; that there are about 28 Europeans in the Factory; but they have no Clergyman, nor Divine Worship of any kind; the Witness never heard Sermon or Prayers there, nor ever heard of any such thing, either before this time or since.

*Enoch Alsop*, who had been Armourer to the Company at *Moose River*, informed your Committee, That he had sown Barley and Oats there, the same Seed, Three Years successively, and that it grew very well; that he sowed a Handful or Two of Barley and Oats at first, mixed with Dust and Ashes, which produced Two or Three Quarts, or a Gallon of Barley; and he thinks in the Third Year, he had above half a Bushel; and then Governor *Stanton* forbade him to sow any more, but gave no Reason for such Prohibition; that he never saw any Indian Corn grow there, but has seen Pidgeons killed with it in their Crops; that he has lived in the Company's Service Ten Years, and was always well treated by all the Governors; that he has heard People complain of ill Usage, but never saw any such thing in regard either to the Europeans or Indians, being greatly confined with his Work; that the Allowance of Victuals was Six Pounds of Flour a Week, and sometimes Four Geese; sometimes Six or Seven, as the Geese were in Size, some weighing but a Pound, others Six, Seven, or Eight Pounds; that they had sometimes half a Goose a Day; and when allowed Venison, they were allowed about Three Pounds a Day: When the Provision was Partridges,