

well: This was, some of it, built in the Year 1735, and was covered with a Timber Parapet, which was taken down as the Stone Work could be erected.

And being asked, if the Coldness of the Climate was not the Reason of the Stone Work's falling down? he said, If that had been the Case, the Work executed by him (the Witness) would have come down as well as the rest; that the Stone Work fell down both in Winter and Summer; that the Mortar scales off in Winter; but that the Stone which is all rough and hard, stands the Winter; that the Orders sent by the Company for repairing the Forts were proper, but the Witness was contradicted by the chief Factor; nor had he Hands to execute them.

And being asked, If he did not know, before he went the second time to *Hudson's Bay*, that there were not a sufficient Number of Hands for a Work of this Nature; and why in that Case he did not represent to the Company the Necessity of sending more? he said, He did not know the Nature of his Work till he was got over; that he executed a Contract as Mason and Surveyor; but it was not expressed in the Contract what he was to do; and understood he was to draw Charts or Plans of Rivers; and did not know of the Orders he afterwards received in the Country, nor of any Mason's Works to be executed: And in the first Letter the Witness wrote to the Company from *York Fort*, he represented that there were not Hands to do the Work; but that he found an Engineer there, who, together with the Governor, took the Direction out of the Hands of the Witness; that there were never more than Eight or Ten Men employed besides the Witness, and sometimes only Two or Three; that the Foundation of the Fort was laid before the Witness went over; and that he built thereon Eight Foot from the Ground; that in the Absence of the Witness the Works were raised on what he had already built; which Superstructure he was afterwards obliged to pull down and repair.

And being asked, If the bad State of the Forts was to be ascribed to the Want of proper Directions from the Company, or want of Hands? he said, The Fault was in the chief Factor, who contradicted the Witness in every Point; but in case he had not, there were not Hands sufficient to do the Business.

Being asked as to the Number of British Subjects in the Company's Settlements; he said, The first Year he was at *York Fort* there were 36 Persons there; and at *Churchill* 44 or 45; that he never saw any *British* Subjects there, except the Company's Servants, nor any other Europeans whatsoever; nor did he ever hear of any People desirous to fix there, or that the Company had ever offered Encouragement to *British* Subjects to settle there: That the Witness understands a little of the Indian Language; and by what he has been able to collect from the Natives, they are about Three Weeks in coming down from their Country to the Forts, which they explain by saying, they sleep so often in their Journey, which the Witness apprehends to mean, that they are so many Days in coming down; but he has heard of the Indians coming down one continued Journey for Two Months: That the Company never sent up any People into the Country to trade with the Natives, though the Indians would gladly entertain them; and have frequently asked, Why the *English* would not go up as well as the *French*?

That the present Method of carrying on Trade is, for the Indians to bring down their Goods to the Fort, and deliver them through a Window or Hole; and the Goods brought down are Beaver Skins, Martens, Foxes, Furs, Pelts, and Feathers: That he has heard of Pieces of Ore taken out of a Mine, and sent home to the Company as a Curiosity; but no People were sent to work those Mines: That the Country is well wooded up *Nelson's River* with Fir-trees; but the Witness saw no Cedar nor Oak: That he does not know of any Tar

or Fitch made there; but has seen a small Quantity of Whalebone, he thinks about Two or Three hundred Weight, brought from *Hudson's Straights*, and some Oil from *Eskimaux*.

That he is of Opinion, Oil and Copper might be brought from thence, having seen Copper round the Indians Necks and Arms; that he has seen about a Pound and Half, or Two Pounds, of Copper Ore, which he understood from the Natives they brought from a great Distance, but can't say how far; and he has likewise seen Ore, which he imagined to be Iron or Tin Ore: That there are great Numbers of white Whales and Seals, and the Witness has also seen black Whales, but not directly in *Hudson's Bay*, but in the Straights; and that Oil might be made from the Whales, Seals, and White Bears; that he can't recollect any other Commodities, except some shining Stones, of the Value of which he is no Judge; that he has heard the Ore has been sent over to be tried, but does not know how it proved.

That the Fir-trees about *Churchill River* are about Thirty Foot high; but there are very tall Trees upon *Nelson's River* which may be floated down; that he has seen small Birch-trees up in the Country; and the Canoes coming down *Nelson's River*, which runs South West, are made of Birch-bark.

He further said, He was acquainted with the Company's Standard of Trade; that the Method is, to appoint Two Traders, and no other of the Company's Servants are admitted to trade: That he thinks the Company take Fifteen Beavers for a Gun; and in his Opinion, if the Standard of Trade was more advantageous to the Indians, a greater Quantity of Furs and Pelts would be brought: That he has never seen any of the *French*, but has seen Indians who have said, they traded with the *French*; and has seen Goods carried in Canoes to the *French*, as the Indians told him: That the Indians bring down Beavers, and that he does not apprehend any of the Produce of the Country is sold by Factors to the *French*; but he thinks, that the Beavers which are brought down to the Company, are refused by the *French*, from their being a heavy Commodity; for the Natives who come to trade with the Company, dispose of their small valuable Furs to the *French*, and bring down their heavy Goods to the Company, in Summer when the Rivers are open, which they sell, and supply the *French* with European Goods, purchased from the Company.

And being asked, If there were not great Falls on the Rivers? he said, He met with no Obstruction in going up 40 or 50 Miles, only the Stream and Tide; and that the Indians could row all the Way he went; that he sailed up all the Falls very easily, though they were called great Falls: That the Indians come to *Churchill River* in *July*, and stay Three Weeks, or a Month; that some few come after *Christmas*, when they come down upon the Ice, and carry home Powder and Shot in Exchange for Furs; that he never knew any Goods returned on the Indians Hands; and he has heard the chief Factor say, That if the Indians bring down a Quantity of Goods insufficient to purchase Necessaries for their Subsistence, the Company will (if they know them) trust them with Goods, which the Witness looks upon as an Encouragement: That there are generally Six or Eight Indians stay about the Fort all the Year round, who, when they can't get Provisions, are allowed half a Pint of Oatmeal a Day.

And being asked, If he ever heard the Indians complain of not having a sufficient Price for their Goods? he said, He was not admitted to talk with them, except in the Fort, the Company's Servants being forbid to converse with the Indians privately; but he has heard some Indians, who speak *English*, frequently complain of their not having Victuals or Wages enough; but those Indians never converse with the *French*, nor go far from the Forts.