

The Reason of my doing this is, that the *Hudson's-Bay* Company conduct all their Affairs with such impenetrable Secrecy, that it is not possible to know at what Rate they exchange their Goods for those of the Natives; an Oath of Secrecy being imposed upon their Servants; and the Observation of all, upon whom they cannot impose such an Oath, prevented by the most brutal Inhospitality and Exclusion from every Kind of Intercourse.

Nor will *the gross Quantity of the Exports* open any satisfactory Insight into this Mystery; as it is not known, nor can, for the above Reasons be discovered with any Degree of Precision, how much of that Quantity is consumed by the Company's Servants; and consequently no Return for it brought Home in the *Imports*.

This much I know from my own Experience, that there is no fixed Rate for the Barter of any Commodity, the Company allowing just what they please, at that Time; in which Allowance, they are so equitable and reasonable, that I myself have seen Instances of their being conscientiously content with a Profit of not above one thousand per Cent. upon particular Articles.

These Lists therefore only shew what Advantage the Nation reaps at present, from the Commerce of this Settlement, under their *Monopoly*. What it would reap, were there no such *Monopoly*, with a more particular Account of the curious Methods taken to keep it in its present State of national Insignificancy, shall be shewn in the proper Place.

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