

some of their reasons for trebling their stock are unexceptionably good, particularly those of *making it more diffusive amongst all his majestys subjects, and more and more a national interest; and the having as much more in their warehouses as their original stock*, provided it was to be added to their stock in trade to increase their annual exports. But how they could urge the prospect of their gains upon the year's trade, or the money sunk in building their factories, or their future demand upon the French, as additions to their stock, is not quite so comprehensible: nor is it easy to account, how their losses by the French should, upon so small a capital as £ 10,500, amount to £ 100,000, (or £ 150,000, as was set forth in their petition to parliament, as an inducement to pass an act for a perpetual confirmation of their charter;) for their whole loss was confined to the small factories at Rupert, Moose, and Albany, which could not amount to the tenth part of that sum; unless they included in the estimate, the gain they *might* have made upon their trade in the time they were out of possession. Neither can I see, when no new subscriptions were taken in, how the trebling their stock could make it *more diffusive amongst the rest of his majesty's subjects*, which was the only good national reason for taking this step. As the whole was nominal, it could be of no real benefit to the proprietors, nor to the nation, unless they had determined to treble their annual exports: it can therefore only be supposed, that having just obtained an act to confirm their charter for seven years, they thought it prudent to make a show of doing something to increase their trade, that they might be entituled to a renewal when that act expired; an expectation, by the way, not very substantially founded, as the act was altered by the Lords, from ten years,

for