

they recover their colour, or the young ones are full grown, they must necessarily be small, ill coloured, and bare of fur. The same may be said of squirrels, with regard to size; and goodness of fur: and those bad ermines and squirrels are constantly killed by the Company's servants and home Indians at improper seasons, who have no encouragement to kill them in the right season; and they are sent over at random, in small parcels, for the sake of what they may accidentally produce. But to shew how far his great zeal has carried him beyond the point which it was necessary for him to keep in view, in order to preserve a consistency between his own and the Company's account of this matter; we need only look into N°. X, which specifies the price of furs at their sales, and into N°. XXIV, which specifies the number as well as price; and it will appear that in ten years sale there was only one article of seventeen ermines, which sold at one shilling and five-pence per skin, as high as the best Siberia ermines, which Sparling himself acknowledges sell generally *from one shilling to one shilling and six-pence*; and yet *these are not worth paying custom for*.

THE next article he produced of the contents of his budget; was squirrels, which *at the last sale* he says *sold for a farthing a piece, and paid a halfpenny duty*. But from the same papers it appears, that in a course of ten years sale squirrel-skins were sold for five years, viz. 276 in 1742 at $4d \frac{1}{4}$ each, 127 in 1744 at $4d \frac{1}{4}$ each, 2070 in 1745 at $1d \frac{1}{4}$, 540 in 1746 at 20s the whole: and 500 in 1747 at $21s. 6d$ the whole: so that there were two sales at which squirrel skins, when probably in full season, sold at $4d \frac{1}{4}$ each; one sale, when more out of season, at $1d \frac{1}{4}$, and two sales, when quite out of season,