

&c. previously to this, as minutely as at present Circumstances will permit, for I am apprehensive, if I am seen writing, they will take my Book, Paper, Pens, Ink, &c. from me, so that whatever I have written is by stealth; but Mr. Barnett has been so obliging as to assist me as much as lay in his Power to do it. Gibson was seen writing One Day, and they immediately took the Paper and Ink from him, and told him Prisoners had no Business to write. We are To-morrow to sail for St. Blas, with all our Officers and Seamen, both English and Portuguese, except those that have entered with the Spaniards. They have taken of our Stores to themselves, all our Pitch, Tar, Canvas, Twine, some Provisions of all Kinds, our Guns, Ammunition, the Chief of our Copper, and many other Articles that we are not acquainted with. All the Officers being Prisoners, some on Board One Vessel, and some on Board the other, we have great Expectations that the Vessel will be delivered up at St. Blas. The Commodore promises me if she is, every Thing that he has taken to himself shall be replaced at that Port; but there has been a Number of Things taken out of the Vessel by Theft that he knows nothing of; nevertheless if any, and the Vessel is returned, they must undoubtedly make it good; but you, Sir, and the rest of our Employers must be great Sufferers, as it has frustrated all our Expectations. Had not we met with this Misfortune; there were strong Appearances of our procuring a great Quantity of Furs, as the Americans have no Copper to purchase with, so that the Natives reserve all their Prime Skins expecting a Copper Ship.

If our Vessel is delivered up to us, our Stores, Trade, &c. returned, you may rest assured I will do all that is in my Power for the Benefit of my Employers, and the Captain remains in this State of Infamy; if he recovers, he will undoubtedly do the same. I can say nothing more, but beg you will present my Compliments to all enquiring Friends; and remain,

Dear Sir,

Your's, most obediently,

(Signed.)

B. DUFFIN.

To Captain John Mears.

Dear Sir,

Nootka Sound, July 14th 1789.

Yesterday at 2 P. M. a Sail was seen in the Offing, coming round Breaker's Point from the Southward, standing into the Sound: As she neared the Shore, we perceived her to be the Sloop Princess Royal, Captain Hudson.—At 7 she came to an Anchor about Two or Three Miles from the Cove, and Captain Hudson himself came into the Cove in his Boat, with Four of his People, when instantly as he made his Appearance in the Cove, the Spanish Boat boarded him, and took him and his People on Board the Commodore as Prisoners. His Motive for coming in, from what I could learn from himself, was to see if Captain Collnett was there, in order to receive his Orders how he was to proceed in future. Whether Captain Hudson's Conduct in this Proceeding is blameable or not, I leave to your superior Judgment.

We are now out of the Cove into the Mouth of the Sound, and are positively to sail To-morrow Morning for St. Blas. The Sloop is towed into the Cove within all the Shipping; and the Spaniards from every Appearance have finally Captured her.

Captain Hudson seems very much hurt from his Misfortune, and candidly declares that it is entirely from his own Simplicity, and being too credulous of the Spaniards Honour, that has brought him into this disagreeable Dilemma.

Captain Collnett is much better To-day, and in general discourses very rationally. I have endeavoured to persuade him to draw out every Particular concerning our being Captured, to send to his Employers, which he refuses: His Objection is, that he has involved himself and every One else into Difficulties that he is not able to extricate himself from, and therefore declares to me that he will have no more Concerns with the Charge of the Vessel, but leaves every Thing entirely to me, which I have, but most reluctantly, complied with, knowing that I cannot acquit myself with Satisfaction to myself, nor undoubtedly more so to my Employers. Nevertheless, if the Vessel is delivered up at St. Blas, as the Commodore gives me every Reason to hope that she will, I will endeavour to the utmost in my Power to do every Thing in my Power that may be any Ways beneficial to my Employers.

The Commodore wanted Captain Collnett to sell all his Copper to him, and he'd give him Bills for the as he valued it, which Captain Collnett had complied with; but I objected, as I thought if his Orders tolerated him to Capture the Vessel, they would undoubtedly tolerate him to Capture the Cargo likewise. We are deficient in a great deal of Copper, as I mentioned in my former, but Mr. Barnett will be able to inform you I imagine where it goes to.

Accompanying this, I send under the Care of Mr. Barnett a Copy of my Journal from Macao, wherein you will find the principal Occurrences that have happened to us since our Departure. I have nothing more to add; neither have I Opportunity to do it, the Vessel being