

America. The influence of the traders over those who depend on them for the conveniences derived from civilization, and for facilities in obtaining food and clothing in greater abundance than before—is great in proportion to the amount of the benefit conferred.

2. Before the conquest of Canada, the Fur Trade of that part of the country known to the French, was carried on under the superintendance of the Government: the country was divided into trading districts; and, to prevent abuses, licences were granted, which enabled the holders to carry on the trade. The care of the Government, in this respect, was not ill repaid; which is manifest from the assistance it derived from the Indians in all its wars with the neighbouring Colonies.

3. Although it cannot be ascertained with accuracy what was the real amount of the furs collected from the several districts which were established by the French, yet the low price at which beaver-skins were sold, and the small extent of territory which was then explored, authorize the conclusion that it was small. Montreal was taken in the year
1760;