

or Potatoes, their Provisions being Fish and Flesh, which they preserve by drying it, not having the Art of Salting; that in case they were instructed in the Arts of Tillage, he does not know whether they would stay long enough in a Place to raise Corn; for though they love Bread dearly, they would rather go a Hunting than cultivate Land; and that the wild Oats he mentioned before, never came to Seed, being little better than a Species of Grass; that Grass grows there sufficient for the Support of Cattle; and that they have made Hay at *Albany*; that if the Company was to grow Corn, they apprehend the French would come and take it, as they did their Sheep in the last War; but they might protect their Corn from the Indians; but the Witness does not think it for the Benefit of the Company to grow Corn; because they must have a House built at a Distance from the Factories, and Men to watch it, to prevent the Home Indians from stealing it; they must also have Men to cultivate it, which would be very expensive: The Witness cannot determine whether it would not be more so than having their Corn from *Europe*; and that he thinks the Company would sow it, if it was for their Advantage.

But the Case would be different, if Strangers were allowed to settle there, who, if they built Forts up in the Country, might cultivate Lands round the Forts, and by that means protect the Corn at a small Expence: He believes Corn would grow 20 Miles to the North of *Albany*; but if the Witness was to engage in this Trade, he should not think it worth his while to sow Corn.

That the Company in most Cases are governed by the Advice of their Factors, who in some Cases have not extended their Trade so much as they might, particularly in not building a Factory between *Cape Diggs* and the *East Main*; that he does not know why they have neglected to build such a Factory; but believes the Indians throw away their Goods rather than bring them down to the present Factories; which would be prevented, if a Factory was erected there.

That *East Main* Factory lies upon *Slude* River, as the Witness thinks; and there are Furs between the *East Main* and *Cape Diggs*; that he has seen Fir-timber there 38 Inches Diameter, and 50 or 60 Feet high, a great deal of which would be fit for Masts to Vessels of Two or Three hundred Tons Burthen, but cannot say whether it would be worth while for a Merchant to bring that Timber home: He has likewise seen great Quantities of Timber and Birch-trees; that they make great Quantities of Turpentine there, and will give a Deer's Bladder full for a Bottle of Brandy.

That there is no Intercourse with the Indians between *Slude* River and *Cape Diggs*; and the Indians have told the Witness, that there are many Deer and Beavers there; that he thinks the Trade might be extended to many other Forts, by giving Encouragement to the Indian Chiefs, and might be carried on without any Company at all; that there must be Forts and Settlements, or the Trade could not be carried on at all; but they ought to be built higher up, and in some Places they might go Twenty or Thirty Miles up the Rivers; that they might go still higher in Canoes, which the Europeans manage very expertly with a Year's Practice; and which draw about Six or Seven Inches Water.

That the Witness was about Eight Days at *Prince of Wales's* Fort, but did not see many Indians there; but believes a great many inhabit to the Northward of it; that he conversed with an Indian, who told him that a Ship was cast away there, a great many Years ago, which was supposed to be a Danish Ship.

That he has seen the Company's Servants punished, one whipped, and one put in Irons, for being drunk.

That if the Trade was laid open, he don't think any body would go to settle there, nor would it be worth while for any Person of Property, except there

was a Company; but he believes the Furriers would raise a Company; but, if full Liberty was allowed to trade, to be sure it must render the Company unable to keep up their Forts; and if the Company were to throw up their Forts, other People would set up the Trade: But there must be one or more Companies established; for if Persons do not reside all Winter in the Settlements, the Indians would report they had left the Country, and that would spoil the Trade.

That if the present Company was broke, the Method which the Witness would propose to carry on the Trade, is to establish a new Company, who should build Forts in every River; but he cannot say whether, if Two Companies were established, One to trade to the North, and One to the South, there would be Trade enough to support them; but a small Trade might be carried on on the *East Main*, another on the *Severne*, and another on the Frenchman's River.

Being asked, Whether if the Company thought it for their Interest, they would not extend their Trade to those Places; he said, He could not tell; that to be sure Wood was very scarce and expensive at *New Severne*; that the Company formerly had a Fort there, which the Witness heard they abandoned for want of Wood; that the Company understand a great deal of their Affairs; but are frequently advised by their Governors and Factors, whose Interest is not always the same with that of the Company; for they have settled Salaries; and if the Trade is ever so much increased, he never knew any further Encouragement given to them.

That there are no Places proper for Settlements North of *Churchill*, *Wager* River being too cold; but a Ship might be sent to trade the *Eskimaux* for Oil and Fins; that he believes the Company take all the Oil and Fins they can get; but there are vast Numbers of white Whales, which afford as good Oil as the black ones; and that the Witness himself got 18 Gallons of Oil from a young white Whale.

Being asked, Whether, if the Company were to lose this Trade, the French would not get it into their Hands before a new Company could be established? he said, He did not know.

That the Indians are not suspicious, but apt to credit any-body; that they believe us whatever we say; and the Witness thinks, they would give the same Credit to Strangers.

Mr. *John Hayter* said, He had been House Carpenter to the Company Six Years at *Moose* River, Three Years at *Churchill*, and Six Months at *Albany*; and knows no other Trade carried on there, but that of Furs.

That he has seen good Barley grow at *Moose* River, and helped the Person to dig his Ground, and sow it; that it produced the Quantity of about half a Bushel, which he saw rubbed out; that the Ear was large, and yielded as well, in the Opinion of the Witness, as the Barley sown on common Ground in *England*; that some of the Seed was sown the next Year, and it grew again; but the Witness did not see the Produce of it: And the Person told him, the Reason why he discontinued sowing Corn was, that the Governor hindered him: And the Witness further said, that he had made Hay at *Moose* River.

That the Witness had been Twelve Days Journey up *Albany* River to a Fort or Factory called *Henly House*, which is 150 or 200 Miles up the River; that he saw large Trees there, but no Corn.

Being asked the Occasion of building *Henly House*; he said, that the old leading Indian had been used ill by the Governor, and brought Four French Indians from the Southerly to the Westerly River; upon which the Governor erected that Fort, to prevent the French Trade, who never traded there before that Season.