

great Friendship for me, and appeared to be exceeding sorry for what he said his Officers compelled him to do. He declared to me, that he had given Captain Collnett Permission to depart, and would have assisted him all in his Power, but that Captain Collnett insisted on erecting a Fort opposite his, said he represented the King of Great Britain, and that he came to take Possession in His Britannic Majesty's Name. The Spaniard quoted the same, and said he was Representative of his most Catholic Majesty the King of Spain; but I have every Reason to suspect there was a Misunderstanding between the Two Parties, for the Linguist spoke English very imperfectly, and in all likelihood interpreted as many Words wrong as right. This is a particular and impartial Account of the above Transaction as it is in my Power to relate; but as this will be accompanied by Mr. Funter, and Barnett, who are permitted to take their Passage in the American Ship, and who were Eye-Witnesses of every Transaction, it will enable them to explain every Particular concerning it more explicitly than I am able to do in Writing. Since our being Captured Captain Collnett has been in a high State of Infamy; sometimes he starts, at other Times he asks how long he has to live, who is to be his Executioner, what Death he is to be put to, with all such delirious Expressions, accompanied by a Number of simple Actions, which induces me, and every other Person who sees him, to believe his Brain is turned, owing to the great Charge that was under his Care; and I am sorry to add, that he has not Fortitude enough, in this critical and disagreeable Situation, to support this unexpected Stroke. He has delivered me his Instructions and the South Sea Company's Grant, and requests I will act in his Name. I have endeavoured to convince the Spaniards, had we known this Place had been taken Possession of by the King of Spain, we would not on any Consideration have come near it. I have likewise wished to persuade him to peruse the South Sea Company's Grant, and our Instructions, which he refuses, and tells me it would avail nothing now to do it, as his Officers insist on his going on with what he acknowledges he too rashly and hastily began, and without deliberating what hereafter might be the Consequence. He desired me to inclose the Grant and our Instructions in his Presence; he took and put a small Note with them, and afterwards sealed it with his own Signet. He put it under my Care, desiring that I would deliver it to the Viceroy of Mexico.—The Vessel is going to St. Blas, a Settlement they have in the Lat. of 21° 30' N. on the Coast of California, where we are going, to determine whether we are a Prize to the King of Spain or not; if we are not, as we have every Reason to expect, she will be delivered up, with every Thing in her, and be answerable for all Damages received, or Stores deficient, since his making a Prize of us; but this undoubtedly will be settled between the Two Crowns.

Captain Collnett, myself, Mr. Temple, and Reid, the Carpenter, are permitted to remain on Board the Argonaut. Mr. Hanson on Board the Commodore Ship, and Mr. Gibson and Ludlow on Board of the Spanish Snow.

From what I can learn at present, all the English Men are to be sent in the Argonaut to St. Blas, and Preparations are now making to accommodate us in that Vessel. They have also built Cabins between Decks for the Seamen, where they are to be confined in Irons during the Night, but suffered to walk out in the Day. The Officers, I believe, are also to be used in the like Manner.—I am at present in Possession of my Cabin, as are also the rest of us, and the Commodore behaves with great Civility, by obliging us in every Liberty that can be expected as Prisoners. Whatever Deficiency may be left concerning our present Transactions will be explained to you in its true Light by Mr. Funter or Barnett: For I confess that I am very unhappy, unfettered, uneasy, and, in short, feel every Anxiety that is the Companion of a Person involved in so disagreeable a Situation as I am.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your's most obediently,

(Signed) B. DUFFIN.

P. S. I am sorry to inform you that the Spaniards have taken the Chief Part of our Copper, all our Guns, Shot, and Powder, with the spare Canvases, &c. The former he means to trade with, as I am informed he sends his Furs to Macao by Captain Kendrick, who also trades for him on Shares.

To Captain John Mears.

Nootka Sound, July 13th, 1789.

Dear Sir,

Captain Collnett has been in such a State of Infamy ever since the Vessel has been Captured by the Spaniards, that we are obliged to confine him to his Cabin. He Yesterday Morning jumped out of the Cabin Window, and it was with great Difficulty his Life was saved. His constant Cry is that he is condemned to be hanged. I sincerely hope for his speedy Recovery, but am apprehensive he never will recover his former Senses again. I understand from the Boy Russel that it is a Family Disorder, and that they all have Symptoms of Madness, more or less. I have written the whole Transaction concerning our being Captured, &c.