

Journals of the House of Commons.

Vol. 16.

p 64] Septe
TradeJouis, 20^o die Januarii;
Anno 7^o Annae Reginae, 1708 [os.]

A Petition of R. A. C. was presented to / House, & read; setting forth, t / Preservation of Trade to Africa has bin always held a Matter of high Importance to this Kingdom, & its Plantations; & t Forts & Settlements are absolutely necessary for / defence & Improvement of t Trade, wh / Petrs are of opinion cannot be advantageously carried on w^t a joint Stock, w^t Privilege to support; & t no t Method can enable / British Subjects to send / Plantations w^t Negroes at a moderate Rate: T. upon Encouragement of a Charter, granted by King Charles / 2^d. in / 24th Year of his Reign, / Petitioners raised, by Subscription, a considerable Sum of Money of a joint Stock, & h^o since advanced sevl l^g Sums of Past & wh has bin expended in purchasing, erecting, & maintaining, Forts, for Improv^{mt} of / sa Trade; which ... [sic] been by them only pursued to / Nation, w^t any Advantages to / Petrs, w^ting the many g^t Losses, during / last, & also present War, & / Attempts of foreign Nations to gain this Trade; & in / Year 1697 / Parliament (as a Means to procure a support this Trade) did bin to open / same, by admit^{ing} all Persons to trade to Africa, payg £10 per Cent to / Co upon the Exports, & also defrayg / Charges of Forts & Settlements etc; but t Expedient hath not answered its Ends, / unbounded Liberty given by t Act to trade, w^t any Regular, & h^o so divided / Interest of / British Nation, t / Natives of Africa impose what they please upon them; & this Difference has much lessened / Prices of Goods, imported to Guinea & advanced / Price of Negroes; & which is promoted by Foreigners, who hope thereby to increase / Trade to themselves: T^o m^oving all / Losses, Difficulties, & Encouragements, / Petrs h^o sustained, they h^o paid sevl add^l Sums upon the Shares in / sa joint Stock in order to preserve / sa Trade so beneficial to / Nation, & are still willing to advance a certain Share for Stock effect to support & improve / sa Trade in evy branch chiefly. If they may be suitable Encourag^{mt} for carryg it on: And prayg / House to take / Premises into Considera^{on} & grant / Petrs such needful Privileges, as may enable them effectually to preserve, support & improve / sa Trade.

Ordered, T / Considera^{on} of / sa Petin be referred to a Ctee.

Ordered, T it be referred to a Ctee of / whole House

Resolved, T this House will, upon Friday fortnight, resolve itself into / sa Ctee.

A Petition of Planters & Inhabitants, of h^o Majesty's Island & Colony of Barbadoes was presented to / House & read; setting forth, t / Petrs beg informed, t / R. A. S. by the Petin to / last Parliament, did allege, t / Trade to Guinea was attended w^t so many Difficulties, t it occasioned / advance of Price of Negroes, & by reason of d^r Hardships, t Trade was in Danger of falling into / Hands of d^r Europeans; & / Petrs are deeply affected w^t t Trade, the constant Supply of Negroes at moderate Rates, beg / chief Support of Barbadoes, w^ting they may be enabled to afford / Product cheap^{er} than d^r Nations; but for five years last, both / sa Co, & / separate Traders, h^o not imported above 2,000 Negroes per Annum, whose at value £25 & £40 per head; wh is an unspeakable Damage to / Petrs, & tends to / Ruin of the Trade, & lessening h^o Majesty's Revenue & / Navigation of / Britain: And prayg t / British Interest in / Coast of Africa may be effectually preserved, & / Trade put on such a Foot, t / Petrs may be constantly supplied w^t a sufficient Number of Negroes at moderate Rates.

Ordered, T / Considera^{on} of / sa Petin be referred to / Ctee of / whole House, to whom / Petin of / R. A. S. is referred.Ordered, T / Commos of Trade & Plantations do lay before this House, a State of / African Trade, & the Observa^{ns} thereupon.

Jouis

17.]

Sept 1708

Jovis, 27^o die Januarii;
Anno 7^o Annæ Regiæ 1708.African
Trade

A Petition of divers Merchants, separate Traders from / Port of London to / Coast of Africa, & hence to the Majesty's Plantations, on behalf of themselves & others, concerned in / said Trade, was presented to / House, & read; setting forth, that / Petitioners, being encouraged by / Act of Parliament, by setting / Trade to Africa, made in / fourth Year of / Reign of / late King William, became by a Discontentment in / said Trade, & by other Improvements, & carried it on to a higher Degree, than when / African Company had it to themselves, by / Increase of Navigation, & supplying / Plantations & Spanish, & other Kingdoms, & by the Exports of / British Manufactures: That / R. A. C. by the said Petition to this House, had offered diverse unreasonable Representations of / said Trade, & injudicious Reflections, as well upon / said Act, as upon / Petitioners, & in many Instances acted directly contrary to / Intent of / said Act, to / great Damage of / Petitioners, & to / Obstruction of / said Trade: And pray, that they may be heard by / Council, or / House, to consider / Charge of / said Co.

Ordered, That / Consent of / said Petition be referred to / Clerk of / whole House to whom / Petition of / R. A. C. is referred.

Ordered, That / R. A. C. & / separate Traders, be heard before / said Clerk, in relation to / African Trade.

Ditto. A Petition of / Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council of / City of / Exeter, & of / Merchants & Traders in / Worlton Manufactures, in / said City or Parts adjacent thereto, was presented to / House & read; setting forth, that since / opening of / Trade to Africa by / Act of Parliament, great Quantities of the Worlton Manufactures have been exported, & sold, both for / said Trade, than when / R. A. C. had / said Trade wholly in their Hands, to / great Benefit of / Worlton Manufacturers in / Devon, & Parts adjacent: And pray, that / Trade to Africa may be free & open to all / Subjects of / Great Britain.

Ordered, That / Consent of / said Petition be referred to / said Clerk of / whole House.

African
Trade

Mr. Pulleney, from / Committee of Trade & Plantations, presented to / House, the Answer to / Order of / 20th of / January last, requiring a State of / African Trade.

And / Title thereof was read.

Ordered, That / said State be referred to / Consent of / Committee of / whole House, to whom / Petition of / R. A. C. is referred.

The said State is bound up wth / Papers of this Session.

17.]

Sept 1708

Veneris, 28^o die Januarii
Anno 7^o Annæ Regiæ, 1708.African
Trade

A Petition of / Turn-makers, Cutlers & Powder-makers, inhabiting in a certain / City of / London was presented to / House & read: setting forth, that / Petitioners & their Families, have been by much supported by Sale of the Powder, usually exported by / R. A. C. in / Trade from / late great Difficulties of / the House w^{ch} under / present Settlement, has by much declined, & is in danger of being lost to / them, to / Prejudice of / Publick, & utter Ruin of many of / Petitioners: And pray, that / Traffick of / R. A. C. to Africa may be preserved & encouraged, by such Means, as / House shall think fit.

Ordered, That / Consent of / said Petition be referred to / Clerk of / whole House, who are to consider of / Trade to Africa.

Pro
RAC.

Trade to Africa exclusive of all ^{other} under / groundless suggestions of the Petition to / House
 / Petros fears & reason to fear all / mischiefs of a monopoly, / ruin of / Ireland, /
 loss of / Spanish Trade, & / decrease of Navigation: T / £10 per Cent Duty
 puts / Petros on an unequal foot of Trade wth / Spaniards, who are thereby enabled
 to undersell / septs Traders, when in our Woollen Manufactures, as well as
 all other Goods, usually vendid in Africa; And praying t / Trade to Africa may
 be continued free & open to all / Subjects of G^{rt} Britain discharged from such
 part of / 10% duty as / House sh^{all} think fit
 Ordered - [ut supra]

African Trade. A Petition of / Planters & Inhabitants of the Island & Colony of Nevis, presented: -
 T / R.A.C. having by the Petition represented t / Trade to Sumatra was
 attended wth such difficulties as occasioned / Advances of / price of Negroes,
 & other hardships, whereby / Trade is in danger of falling into / hands of / Spaniards;
 t / Petros are greatly deeply concerned in this Trade, / constant supply of Negroes
 at moderate prices, being / chief support of the Colony, without which they can not be
 sufficiently supplied for such year past, now by / sd Co, wth / septs Traders, both [neutral]
 have not imported above 200 per Annum, & those sold at extravagant
 prices, from 30 to £40 per head, to / unspcakable discouragement of / Petros, / ruin
 of / Planters Trade, & lessening the Majesty's Revenues & / Navigation of G^{rt} Britain;
 And praying t / British Interest in / Coast of Africa may be effectually
 preserved, & / Trade put on such a foot t a safer no of Negroes may be had
 at moderate prices.
 Ordered - [ut supra]

Ditto A Petition of / Dyers, Packers, Settlers, Drapers, & Calenders of London, presented: -
 t / Petros a the Families to be very much supported by / works, & full for sale, [Pro RAC]
 / Woollen Manufactures, usually exported in G^{rt} Quantities by / R.A.C.;
 wth Trade (for / G^{rt} difficulties / Co has met wth under / present Settlement) is very
 much declined, & is in danger of being lost to / France, wth will prove very
 prejudicial to / Public & utter ruin of many of / Petros: And praying t /
 Traffic of / African Co may be preserved, & encouraged by such means
 as / House sh^{all} judge fit.
 Ordered - [ut supra]

89] Sept 1709 Mercurii 2^o die Februarii

African Trade A Petition of / Shipwrights, Sail-makers, Rope-makers, & other Tradesmen [Pro RACT]
 concerned in Slips ... in London, presented: - [in similar terms
 to t from / Dyers &c. - supra].
 Ordered - [ut supra]

Ditto. A Petition of / Septs & Merch^{ants} absent^{ees} of Bristol presented: - t since / Trade has
 been opened to Africa, & R much increased, & / Planters to be better supplied wth Negroes
 than when / R.A.C. had it only: T / Duty of Ten per Cent paid to / Co to support of the
 Forts & Castles, is a G^{rt} charge to / septs Traders & a hindrance to them, not only bec they
 refuse to give them preference, but also, f t / Cos Agents & Factors discourage / inhabitants
 near them, from Trade wth / septs Traders: T / Petros conceive, if / Trade to Africa
 sh^{ould} be granted to / sd Co only, it w^{ould} be very much lessened / consumption of / British
 Manufactures, & t / Planters w^{ould} be ill served wth Negroes, when they is but one
 Seller, wth will be a G^{rt} discouragement to / Planters: And praying t / Trade to Africa
 may be put under such Regulations, as all / Subjects of the Majesty may be equal
 Shareers therein.
 Ordered - [ut supra]

Ditto A Petition of / Weavers, Tuckers & other Artificers belonging to / Manufactures of Perpetuances Pro RAC.
 of Africa, wth in ... Exon, presented: - t / Petros to be very much supported in the Trade
 by / G^{rt} quantities of Woollen Goods usually exported by / R.A.C. who (as / Petros are
 informed) is met wth such discouragements in the Trade, t they will be forced to
 withdraw the effects, & decline the Trade to Africa, to / utter ruin of / Petros: And
 praying t / Traffic of / sd Co to Africa may be preserved, & encouraged, as / House
 sh^{all} think fit.
 Ordered - [ut supra]

[Pro RACT]
 Cf / come on p III supra, wth was contra
 Pro RAC.
 Cf / Exon Petⁿ p. II supra contra

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References to "African Trade"

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536]	" 6	Report of Trade & Trade since last session & Petition presented. To be considered by Ctes & whole House to whom Petition from Merchants of RAC is referred.	
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		" Bristol	
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		" London	
		" Lyons Regis	
		" Factors of Woolens London [contra]	
		" Carolina	"
		" Bristol (Mayor)	"
		" Whitechapel	"
		" Bristol (Merch)	"
		" Shipwrights & London [pro]	
		" Factors of Woolens London [pro]	
		" Woolens & Kidderminster [pro]	
		" Gunmakers London [pro]	
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588]	" 11.	Petition RAC - to be heard by Council	[..]
589]		Petition (Woolens) Tonnes	[..]
595]	" 14.	Petition (Woolens) Northampton	[..]
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604]	" 19	Petition Plymouth	[..]
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627]	" 4	Resol. comon in Ctes	
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665]	" 15	"	
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674]	" 21	"	
676]	" 23	"	
677]	" 24	"	
678]	" 25	"	
680]	" 28	"	
685]	" 31	"	
691]	June 7.	Resol ⁿ to present address to H ^{rs} ? to take such measures as she sh ^d think proper & supportg / Settlement in Africa & present / African Trade all some of them be made by Parliament & some: & H ^{rs} will take into consid ⁿ / nature of Trade & how it may best be carried on & / service of Kingdom	
692]	" 12.	Parliament prorogued till July 10	
695]	July 10	" Aug 21.	
	Aug 21.	" Oct 9.	
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copy.

1715

CO 389/25

K. Trade. fm yth Jan 17th 15 To 31 July 1716

320] 1715

Trade.

Decem^r 20th
Representamⁿ
upon / Order in Council
o / 18th o Octob^r 1715
relatg to some ma-
rial Assistce desired
By / Royal African
Co.

To / Kings most Excellent Majesty

May it please yr Majesty
In Obedie to yr Majesty's Order in Council o / 18th
o Octob^r last referring to us a Report fm / R^t Honble
/ Lords Commissioners of Treasur^y / Office o Lord High
Admiral o Gr Britain, on a Petⁿ o / Royal African
Co prayg to be allow'd some Naval Assistce to
cruise on / Coast o Africa, in Order to encourage t Trade, We h consider'd
/ same, & on severall times attended by / gr Co as also by / separate Traders,
And th^r upon humbly take leave to represent to yr Majesty,

T We find durg / late Wars, / Co had Ships allow'd them f /
Protectⁿ o t Trade, and sometimes also in Peace. But then it has bin
upon the Applicam to be protected agst Pirates & infested t Coast, and
as We cannot learn the are any the more, We do not conceive the
is an absolute necessity, f such Ships o War at present, & / rather f
t We are inform'd neither / French nor any o^r foreign Nam h any the
in time o Peace.

The Co complain t / Trade to Africa is in Danger o being lost to
this Kingdom & / Plantans by / many Incroachments on, & Insults offer'd
/ British Settlements & Trade by / Natives & o^r European Competitors the. Upon
wh We humbly represent to yr Majesty, T We do not find any
Incroachments h bin made upon them but by / French in / River Gambia, wh
We h reason to believe were occasion'd by an Agreem^t betwⁿ Our English
Co & t o France, not to molest one / o^r in t River.

Howev^r, shd yr Majesty think fit to allow a Ship o War to protect
/ Trade in Gen, We then humbly offer t / Commander o such Ship to
Instrumts, & be strictly charg'd to give equal Countenance & Protectⁿ to all yr
Maj^{ty}s Subjects on t Coast, & t he be partly prohibited fm Trade
himself.

As this Trade is o vy gr Importce to this Namⁿ & / Plantans,
& especially to / Sugar Islands, wh cd not be manag'd w^o Negroes fm
Africa, Besides / considerable Trade carry'd on fm Jamaica in Negroes
to / Spanish Coast, and fm Africa to this Kingdom in Gold & Elephants
Teeth, in return chiefly f our manufactures, We humbly conceive it
is necessary to prevent / Disorders in t Trade occasion'd by /
interferg o / Co & separate Traders, wh gives Advantage to Our foreign
Rivals, t some Regulamⁿ the of, be made by Parliam^t as soon as may be.

Wh is most humbly submitted

White hall
20 Dec^r 1715.

Jacob Astley
Rob^t Moleworth
Jm^s Cotbourn
Jm^s Cheswyl
Cha Cooke
P. Doeminique

1716

C.O. 389/26

L.

Trade
From 8 August 1716
To 31 October 1718

Trade

367.

1716.

To / Right Honorable Mr Secretary Methuen

Novem^r 8th
Letter to Mr Secy
Methuen in answer to
his o / 14th Septem^r
1716, upon sev^l
Papers relatg to /
Royal African Cos
Desire o some naval
Assistance.

Sir In Obedience to His Royal Highness's Commands
signified to us by yr letter o 14th Septem^r last; We h^e
consider'd / Copy o / Letter fm / Lords Comon^{rs} o / Admiralty
o / 4th o / same Month to yr self, upon a Petⁿ fm /
Royal African Co, settg forth,

That both in War & Peace they h^e had fm time to time /
Protectⁿ o some Naval Force to Cruise o / Coast o Africa
They are now reporting a Lge Supply o Goods,
Stores sea b^y / Supportⁿ o the Forts & Settlements & carrying
on the Trade th^{er}.

They are apprehensive o gr Danger fm / Salley-men & Pirates.
Their Efforts & Settlements are in Danger o falling into / Hands o Natives
or forenans, the Competitors, & therefore they pray f such Naval Assistance as
His Majesty sh think fit.

We h^e on this Ocean bn attended by some Members o / sd Co o
separate Traders, whereupon We take leave to represent;

That We find / Co are now reporting as they set forth, Goods o
to / Value o fifty thousand Pounds or upwards b^y t Coast. They
ha^e sometimes had / Assistance o Ships o War granted upon their
Application to be protected fm Pirates; But upon all / Enquiry We h^e
bn able to make, We cannot learn t this are o h^e bn o late Years
any Pirates upon t Coast.

Having also enquired into the Allegⁿ t the Forts & Settlements
are in Danger fm / Natives o / Foreigners, it do^s not appear t the h^e
o late bn any considerable Encroachm^{ts} made upon them, sufficient
to induce His Majesty upon this Acct to grant them / Protectⁿ o a Ship
o War, as desired; neither can We judge how necessary it may be to
allow / Co such a Convoy, as they desire, agst / Salley-men, not knowing
what Disposⁿ / Lords o / Admiralty h^e made o protectg Our Trade,
agst those Roovers, the Lordships f this Reason, beg / His^t Judges how far it
may be proper f His Majesty to grant / Co's Request.

How^{ev} as this Trade is o v^{ry} gr Imp^o to G^t Britain & / Plantans,
& especially to / Sugar Islands, wh^{ch} cd not be managed wth Negroes fm
Africa, besides / considerable Trades carried on fm Jamaica in Negroes
to / Spanish Coast & fm Africa to this Kingdom in Gold & Elephants
Teeth, in return chiefly f Our Manufactures; We humbly conceive it
mst be advisable to send sometimes one o His Majesty's small frigates
to cruise on / Coast o Africa, to give Countenance to all His Majesty's
Subjects, engag^d in t Trade, as well / separate Traders as / Co

We are Sir - &c -

Jno Cockburne
Jno Chelwylnd
Cha. Cooke
Jos Addison
Jno Moresworth

Whitehall
Novem^r 8th 1716.

1726
CO 389/28

" N
Trade
January 1721
Novr 1721.

[Letters sent]

Co. 281] 1725/6
Febr 25th
letter to Mr James
Lynn Secy to /
Royal African Co
to what they may
be to offer in
writing in addition
to the late Petition
& Memorial

To Francis Lynn Esq
Sir His Majesty having been pleased to refer to / Consideration my Lords
Comms of Trade & Planters a Petition from / Royal African Co to His
Majesty, & a Representation from them to my Lord Townshend,
setting forth / several Hardships the Trade Labourers under, my
Lords Commissioners Command me to desire t if the Co h
anything to offer in addition to the sd Petition & Representation,
they wd lay / same before my Lords Commissioners in
writing. t the Lords may b an Oppy o considering thereof before
they give / Directors / trouble o attending their Lordships upon
this Subject. I am - re - Thured Popple
white hall
Febr 25th 1725/6

[Note Under Entry to this Volume reads: - "1725/6 Febr 25th letter from /
" Duke o Newcastle enclosing a Petition from / African Co to / King & a Representation"
" to Lord Townshend Burn, S. 27." [Folio, side CO 388/25. S. 1-112]

Co 282]. 1725/6
March 3^d

letter w.
Queries to /
Royal African Com-
pany, / South Sea
Co, & to
several merchants
concerning /
African Trade

To Francis Lynn Esq Secy to / Royal African Co.
Sir my Lords Comms of Trade & Planters having at
present under the Consideration / Settlement o / Trade to
Africa. I am directed to send you / Queries enclosed
to wh they desire / Royal African Co's [in margin: instead
"o / words underlined, to Mr Wescomb was / words South
Sea Co's; & to / or sent" you"] answer in writing if
possible by Monday m^g next, / Board intendg to sit t
to consider thereof, t a State o this Matter may be
ready to be laid before / Parliament this Sesⁿ in Case /
same sh be thot necessary I am - re - Thured Popple.
white hall
March 3^d 1725/6.

"NB. A like letter was writ to Mr Wescomb Secy of South
Sea Co, Sir Abraham Elton, Mr Brereton, Mr Morris, Mr Harris
Mr Newport, Mr Cary, Mr Tryon, Mr Perry, Mr Hyde, &
"Mr Dotylass"

Queries.

Queries

- When it be f / Southern / Publick t / African Trade shd be carried on by a Co, or laid entirely open?
- When it be necessary t / Forts & Settlements on / Coast o Africa shd be kept up & maintained?
- When t Expense of might not to lye upon / Trade?
- What / present Value o these Settlements is?
- In what manner / Property may be purchased, & how stey sh be maintained for / future, in / Hands o / Crown or otherwise?

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3 ^d	Letter w/ Queries --- [supra]		
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1726.			
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 / Board this Day relaty to / African Trade 5.70

... [French & / Gambia] ...

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 to London employd in / African Trade & o /
 Commanders Owners & Member o ~~Ships~~ negroes
 each Ship is designd to carry to / Plantations 3.74
 Acc^t o / annual Expens^e o maintaining /
 African Cos Settlements on / Gold Coast fm
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 Cargoes in / sd years & in 1725 5.77

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 Acc^t o / Value o Goods exported to Africa
 in ten years to Christmas 1724.
 Acc^t o / Tonnage o Ships employd in / African
 Trade fm 1714-1724

[Incloses a number o docs re / French in
 / Gambia.]

1726/7.

March 3^d. Extracts o two letters fm / Chief Merchants
 at Cape Coast Castle to / African Co relaty
 to / Desirys o / Dutch 5.106

[last item in / Index]

fo 305. 1726/7.
 March 14th

To / Hings most excellent mag^{ty}.

May it please yr Majesty
 In obedience to yr mag^{ty}'s Commands signified to us
 by His Grace / Duke o Newcastle's letter o / 21st o Feby last. We h
 considered / Petⁿ o Repⁿ o / Portugal African Co thereby referred
 to us. We h likewise received sev^l Papers, Memorials, &
 Representatⁿs, as well fm / African Co as fm / separate Traders
 o London, Bristol & Liverpool, & have heard what they ha^d to offer
 either themselves or by the Council respectively, as to / nature o
 condⁿ o this Trade We humbly begg leave to Represent to
 yr Majesty;

306]

Two principal Points in Dispute betwⁿ / Co & separate
 Traders, were / Nature & Condⁿ o / Trade & / Utility o / Forts, &
 Settlements upon / Coast o Africa. And to these heads chiefly related
 all / order given on either side durg / Course o this Inquiry.
 Full Reason We sh^d begg leave to confere Our Representatⁿ likewise
 to / Nature & Condⁿ o this Trade & to / Utility o Forts & Settlements
 on / Coast o Africa.

The African Co in their humble Petition to yr. Majesty & Representatives therein
annu'd set forth t/ Competition betwⁿ them, & Dutch, French & Portuguese, but
chiefly betwⁿ them & / Separate Traders o / Gt Britain, has rais'd / Price o
Negroes on / Coast o Africa to Fourtimes / Value they were formerly sold at,
307] fm whence, & fm / Badness o their own Circumstances: they infer t this Trade
is in / utmost Danger o being lost, & consequently / Plantations being ruin'd f want
o necessary Supplies o Negroes; ~~t/~~ they are already come to a Resolution o
trading no longer, and t unless some speedy relief be given them, they sh. be
no longer able to maintain the Forts & Settlements, but must be oblig'd to
abandon them.

But notwthg^t the African Co apprehend this Trade to be in Danger o being
lost, yet it appears to us t / Trade to Africa is g^oly increased, as well in
/ Number o Ships employ'd therein as in / number o Negroes carried fm
thence to yr. Majesty's Plant^s: since / Expiration o / Duty o 10 Pence ad Valorem
f all Goods & Merchandize exported to Africa fm England or fm yr
308] Majesty's Plantations in America, by any separate Trader, imposed by
an Act pass'd in / 9th & 10th o King William, 3d. Intituled Intituled,
an Act to Settle / Trade to Africa wh. expired in / year 1712, and tho' /
Price o Negroes is much g^oter upon / Coast than formerly, wh. is a Natural
Consequence o a g^oter Demand, yet it did appear to yr. Majesty's Subjects
in / Plantations, h. been much better supply'd, & as near as cheap as formerly.

As to / Forts & Settlements possess'd by / Co upon / Coast o Africa;
It does not appear to us what parts Sums they paid to the
Predecessors f them, or what they h. Expended in / Maintenance o them since
they were in the Possession. But altho' / Co did produce to us an acct
309] o £ 34,000 alledg'd to h. been paid to the Predecessors. yet all /
Effects in gen^o o / Old Proprietors, & Seal Debts being included in t. Acct;
It is impossible f us to distinguish what part thereof was paid or
intended to be paid in Consideration o the Forts & Settlements only; and
as to what relates to / Maintenance o them, t. Acct. being likewise
intermix'd wth Seal o Charges & Expenses o / Co. such part thereof as
is applicable to / Maintenance o Forts, is not to be Distinguished fm
/ rest.

As to / Condition these Forts & Settlements are now in, It
appeared to us fm / Evidence produced upon this occasion, t they are not
capable o putting / Ships o yr. Majesty's Subjects agst Pirates or any
310] Enemy at Sea, tho' they may be o some Use agst / Natives
o / Country at Land, and do serve / Co as Warehouses f their Goods,
And it likewise appeared to us t / separate Traders h. f many
Years carried on the Trade to a far g^oter Extent than / Co, wth any
Assistance fm these Forts, and even to send Parts far remote fm them;
where it was affirm'd t / Natives traded v^y freely wth all Nations;
and therefore We do not conceive t these Forts & Settlements are
absolutely necessary f carrying on / Trade; But as they are Markts

of yr Majesty's Possession, & may be of use, to Evince / Rights of yr
Majesty's Subjects to Trade upon t Coast, We think it mi be a
dangerous Experiment to abandon them least [sic] they shd
fall into / Hands of some Foreign Nations who h Settlements already
311] in these parts, and who mi for thence set up a pretence of
Excluding yr Majesty's Subjects from Trading there, as / French now do
upon / Coast of Senegal.

Upon / whole, since it is Evident by / Experience of many Years,
t this Trade is gaily increased since ~~it~~ it has been laid entirely open
to all yr Majesty's Subjects. We are humbly of Opinion it shd always
be continue free & open.

And since / British Settlements upon / Coast of Africa are Grants
of yr Majesty's Possession there, & may Evince / Rights of yr Majesty's
Subjects h to t Trade We are humbly of Opinion t care shd be
taken to prevent the falling into / hands of any Foreign Nation, and
since / Africans do declare t wot assistance for t Purpose, they are
312] no longer able in the present Circumstances to maintain them,
We wd humbly propose t a reasonable Compensation shd be
offer'd to them for the Title therunto, But if / Co sh refuse to accept
thereof, t / sd Settlements shd be resumed into yr Majesty's hands
to prevent the being possessed by Foreigners; or / Charge thereof,
defray'd by / Publick; Or ~~if~~ if t sh not be thot proper, We
are then of opinion, t a Duty may be laid on all Ships trading to
/ Coast of Africa, in order to defray / Expence of maintaining such
of / sd Settlements, as it shall be thot necessary to keep up, &
also of Paying such a Sum as sh be allow'd to / African Co
all wh is most humbly Submitted.

Whitehall
March 14th 1726/7.

Hollis Newcastle
Townshend
Westmorland
J. Chetwynd
P. Doornique
J. Pelham
M. Bladen
Ed. Ashle
R. Plumbe

Letters sent.

1744

129] June 14th
Letter to / Deputy
Gov^r & Coun^{tyl} o
Assistants o / Royal
African Co
inclos^g Copy o an
Address o / House
o Commons relat^g
to / State o / Trade
to Africa &c

To / Deputy Gov^r & Coun^{tyl} o Assistants o / Royal African Co

Gentlemen, In compliance wth yr Request I am directed by my lords
Commissioners of Trade & Plantations to acquaint y^e, t^h / House
o Commons having address'd His Majesty on / 10th Day o May last,
in / following Words, viz.

Resolved

T an humble Address be presented to His Majesty t^h he
will be graciously pleas'd to give Directions to / Commiss^{rs} of
Trade & Plantations, t^h they do Enquire into / gen State o Trade

to Africa, & / Condⁿ o / Forts & Settlements ther belongg to / Royal African Co o Eng-
land, & what is / necessary Charge o maintaining / same, & make a Report therof,
toget^h wth their Opinion thereupon, & t^h His Majesty will be graciously pleas'd to order /
same to be laid before this House / next Sessⁿ o Parliament

and His Majesty having bin pleas'd to signify this Pleasure to the Lordships,
t^h they sh^d prepare / Report^r there directed; I the Lordships may be enabled
to prepare such a Report, I am in the Name to desire, t^h y^e wd lay before them
as soon as conveniently may be, A gen State o Trade to Africa & /
Condⁿ o / Forts & Settlements ther belongg to / Royal African Co o England,
& what is / necessary Charge o maintaining / same, I am - &c -

Whitehall

June 14th 1744.

Thos Hill

1744

138] July 6th
Letter to Mrs
Hayes desir^g an
Answer to /
Papers communic^d
to him wth /
Board / 13th o
last Month

Trade

To Charles Hayes, Esq^r, Deputy Gov^r o / Royal African Co.

Sir I am commanded by my lords Commissioners of
Trade & Plantations to signify to y^e, t^h they sh^d be glad to h^e
as soon as conveniently may be, forwth o Court o Ab-
solut^y of Royal African Co to / Papers wh were commun-
icated to y^e at / Board / 13th o last Month, & o wh y^e des-
ired a Copy, in order to be laid before t^h Court. I am - &c -

Whitehall

July 6th 1744

Thos Hill

Trade

137] 1744
July 19th

Letter to Mrs
Corbett Sec^y to /
Lords Comm^{rs} o /
Admiralty desir^g
such Informants
as the Lord^s sh^d
receiv^e fm / Capt^{ns}
o His Majesty's ships
stationed on / Coast
o Africa, relat^g to
t^h Trade

To Thos Corbett Esq^r Sec^y to / Lords Comm^{rs} o / Admiralty

Sir The Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations has
bin directed by His Majesty in pursu^e o an Address o /
Honble House o Commons to inquire into " / gen State o /
Trade to Africa ... maintaining / same [but exp^d] to be
laid before / House [next Sessⁿ o Parliament" I am by the
Lordships Commands to desire y^e will move / Lords o /
Admiralty, t^h if they h^e receiv'd any Informants
relat^g therof fm / Captains o His Majesty's Ships
stationed on t^h Coast, they wd be pleas'd to com-
municate to them such parts therof as they sh^d judge

proper for this Inquiry. I am - &c -

Whitehall

July 19th 1744

Thos Hill

Trade

136] 1744
Augst 15th

Letter to Mrs Wood
Sec^y of Customs
of an Acc^t
o Ships Employed
in / Trade to
Africa & / Value
o Goods Imported

... [Reminder o L^{tr} o 15 June - next page] ...

148] 1744
June 15th
Ltr to Mrs Wood
Secy to Commrs
of Customs of an
Acct of Tonnage
of Vessels cleared for
Gr Britain to Africa
for Year 1730 to
present time
Value of Goods reported to Africa
Whitehall
June 15th 1744

To William Wood Esq
Trade
In my Lords Comms of Trade & Plantations beg directed by
His Majesty in pursuance of an Address from House of Commons
dd 15th May 1744, to prepare & lay before them at the next
meetg a gen State of Trade to Africa; I am commanded by the
Lord Ps in Absce of Mrs Hill, to desire y wd move Honble Com-
mrs of His Majesty's Customs of "an Acct of Tonnage of such
Ships cleared for Gr Britain to Africa, for Year 1730 in-
clusive to present time, w/ Names of sd Ships, distinguishing,
if possible, /Cos' Ships from those of private Traders, togt w/
I am - &c -
Sam^l Gellebrand

Trade

132] 1744
June 15th
Ltr to Mayor
of Bristol &
 likewise to
Mayor of Liverpool
during such Infor-
ma from them
& / principal
Traders to Africa
as they may think
necessary upon
Subject of
Trade.
Whitehall
June 15th 1744

To Mayor of Bristol
In my Lords Comms of Trade & Plantations beg directed by
His Majesty, in pursuance of an Address of House of Commons, dd.
15th May 1744, to prepare & lay before them at the next
meetg, "a Gen State of Trade to Africa & of Forts & Settlements
tho, belongg to Royal African Co of England, & what is / neces-
sary Charge of maintaing / same" I am commanded by the
Lord Ps in Absce of Mrs Hill, to desire t y will Communicate this
Letter to / principal Traders to Africa Town of Liverpool
in y^e City, t they may lay as soon as conveniently may be
before the Lord Ps such Informaⁿ thereupon as they sh think
necessary. I am - &c - Sam^l Gellebrand. D. Secy

"A like letter was wrote to / Mayor of Liverpool

146] 1744
October 18th
Second letter
to / Mayor of
Liverpool of an
Acct of the
Trade to, or a State
of Forts &c in
Africa

... .. [Signed by Thos Hill Secy]

150] 1744
November 29th
Third letter
to Mrs Wood Secy
to / Commrs of
Customs
remyng him of
two former ones

Trade

152] 1744/5
January 10th
Letter to Mrs
Corbett to be informed
if this Board may
be leave to annex
to the Report papers
sent for / Annual
relatg to Africa

153] 1744/5
January 31st

Report to/
Honble House o
Commons upon/
State o Defce o
/ British Settle-
ments on / Gold
Coast o Africa

Trade.
To / Honble / Commons o Gr Britain in Parliam^{nt} assembled.

This Majesty having been pleased by this Order o / 24th o
May last, pursuant to an Address o this Honble House o / 13th
o / same Month, to direct this Board to enquire into & prepare
in order to be laid before this House at the next Sessⁿ " A
" Report o / gen State o Trade to Africa & o / Condition o /
" Forts & Settlements there belonging to / Royal African Co o Eng-
" land & what is / necessary Charge o maintaining / same, together wth
" our Opinion thereupon "

We take leave to Report to this Honble House :

1 Upon Receipt o this Order we endeavoured to acquire / best & most Authentick
Informants relative to / said Matters therein contained.

And first, w respect to / gen State o Trade to Africa, We find as
well / African Co as / separate Traders to Africa agree, t Trade is o late
decreased, & it appears by / Returns fm / Custom house fm 1729 to 1743,
t / sd Decrease has been fm / Port o London, / Trade fm / Our Ports f /
above mentioned time, having admitted o little Variation thro do like find
any Complaints o Decrease in this Trade fm / Merchants o Bristol & Liverpool,
to whom We wrote upon this Occaⁿ, tho they do propose for Methods o Protecⁿ o same;
and we take leave to annex / Custom house Accts, together w / sd Letters fm Bristol
& Liverpool.

Secondly, w regard to / Condition o Forts & Settlements o African Co upon t
Coast, We do find as well fm / Acknowledgm^{nt} o / Co, as fm / Accts o Private
Traders, & / Returns fm / Captains o His Majesty's Ships o War stationed at dif-
times upon t Coast; t / sd Forts & Settlements are f / most part in a ruinous
Condition not sufficiently manned or furnished w Military Stores f the Defce;
T a Fort formerly possessed by / Co at Sierra Leon has long since been seized
by / Natives, & t Annamaboe has been many Years entirely useless, tho /
Co do continue to keep one or two Men there to maintain the Right; But f / full
Satisfacⁿ o / House We h hereunto annexed as well / Returns o / Co upon
this head, as those fm / Captains o / Men o War.

As to / necessary Charge o maintaining / sd Forts & Settlements,
We beg leave to say;

1 We are not competent Judges o Military Establishm^{ts} but We
must observe, t it appears fm / Estimates laid before us by / Directors o /
African Co, wh (as they informed us) are / same w those laid / last Year before
this Honble House, t they h intermixed w the Military, sev^l Officers &
Charges t are only necessary on / Acct o Trade & not f / Defce & Protecⁿ
o / sd Forts, wh has g^{ly} increased / Acct given in by / sd Co; And We beg
leave to submit, wh / Sum o £10,000 wh has been granted by this Honble
House f some Years past to / Royal African Co may not be sufficient t
/ Defce o / sd Forts & Settlements, & f Keepg / Possesⁿ thereof, as far as is
necessary f supportg / Right o this Nam^e to trade on t Part o Coast;
if properly applied f t purpose.

Wh is most humbly submitted

White hall
Jan^y 31st 1744/5

Monson
M. Bladen
R. Plummer
John Philipps
John Pitt

List o Papers

4.
ditto Papers annex'd / Report o / Board o Trade, to / Hon^{ble} House
o Commons, relatg / gen State o / Trade to Africa, / Condemn o / Forts &
Settlements ther, belongg to / Royal African Co o England; & what is /
necessary Charge o maintaing / same

1.
Copy o a letter fm Mr Wood Secy to / Comm^{rs} o / Customs, dd 1st Decem^r 1744,
transmittg

2.
An Acct o / Tonnage o / seal Ships cleared fm G^t Britain to Africa, fm Christmas 1729,
to Christmas 1743, distinguishg each Year.

3.
An Acct o / Value o Goods to Africa fm Christmas 1729, to Christmas 1742, disting-
uishg each Year

4.
Copy o a letter fm Mr Henrill, master o / Incorporated Society o Merchants
at Bristol to / Board o Trade, dd. 14th September 1744.

5.
Copy o a letter fm Mr Hardman in behalf o / Merchants o Liverpool, dd.
2^d November 1744, transmittg

6.
An Acct o Ships belongg to / Port o Liverpool employed in / African
Trade in / Year 1743 / 4 togr w a State o Fambia River & James Fort
in 1743

7.
Copy o an Answer o / Royal African Co o England, to some Papers
communicated by / Board to Mr Hayes, Dep^y Gov^r relatg to / gen State o /
Trade to Africa.

8.
Copy o a letter fm Mr Spence, Secy to / Royal African Co, dd. 13th
December 1744, inclosg seal Papers relatg to / State o / Trade to Africa.

9.
Copy o a letter fm Mr Corbett, Secretary to / Lords Comm^{rs} o /
Admiralty, dd. 25th July 1744, inclosg an Extract o a letter fm
Capt Gregory Commander o His Majesty's Bomb Vessel Comer to
Lavin, dd at Spithead 11th June 1743, & transmittg

10.
Copy o two letters, one fm Thomas Buchanan, dd. at Tantrum
18th ... [sic] 1742, 1st fm Isaac Gregory, dd at whydah 30th
September 1742, to Capt Gregory Commander o His Majesty's
Ship / Norwich

11.
Copy o a letter fm Capt Frogmore Commander o His Majesty's
Ship / Ruby, to Mr Corbett, dd at Longreach / 22^d August
1743 inclosg a State o Royal African Co's Forts on / Coast o Africa,
togr w a Copy o a letter to him fm Mr Parrishall a Merchant at
/ Bamarras, dd / 28th November 1742

12.
Extract o a letter fm Captain Boys Commander o His
Majesty's Ship / Greyhound to Mr Corbett, dd. / 14th April 1744

13.
Extract o a letter fm / Chiefs at Cape Coast Castle to Capt
Boys Comander o His Majesty's Ship / Greyhound dd /
9th o April 1744.

14.
Copy o a letter fm Mr Corbett, Secy to / Lords Comm^{rs} o /
Admiralty dd. / 21st o August 1744, inclosg / Copy o a
letter to him fm Capt Herbert, Commander o His Majesty's
Ship / Woolwich dd. at Barbados / 20th March 1743 / 4

15.
Copy o a letter fm Mr Corbett, Secy to / Lords Comm^{rs} o /
Admiralty, dd. / 24th o November 1744, transmittg

16.
An Acct o / Royal African Co's Forts & Factories on
James Island in / River Fambria

17.
State & Condemn o all / Castles & Factories belongg to
/ Royal African Co on / Gold Coast o Africa dd ... July 1744

18.
Letter from Mr John Boys to Capt Boys Commander of His Majesty's Ship
Greyhound, dd. 20th Feb^{ry} 1743/4.

19.
Letter from Officers of Royal African Co at Cape Coast Castle to Capt Boys
Commander of His Majesty's Ship Greyhound, dd 9th April 1744.

20.
Request from some Masters of Ships to Capt Boys Commander of His
Majesty's Ship Greyhound, to fire into Town of Annamaboe, dd 12th April 1744

21.
Letter from Mr Gregory to Capt Boys, Commander of His Majesty's Ship
Greyhound, dd at Whydah / 27th April 1744.

22.
Letter from Mr Gregory to Capt Boys Commander of His Majesty's Ship Grey-
hound, dd at Whydah 23rd April 1744

23.
Letter from Mr Brown to Capt Boys, Commander of His Majesty's Ship /
Greyhound dd at Spee / 24th April 1744

24.
Letter from Mr Churston to Capt Boys Commander of His Majesty's
Ship Greyhound, dd at Annamaboe 12th April 1744.

25.
Letter from Mr Woolhead to Capt Boys Commander of His Majesty's
Ship Greyhound, dd at Secondee Fort 15th April 1744.

26.
Letter from Mr Boteler to Capt Boys Commander of His Majesty's
Ship Greyhound, dd at Commanda Fort 2^d April 1744

27.
Letter from Clevecland to Capt Boys Commander of His Majesty's
Ship Greyhound, dd at Bonanos 25th February 1743/4

28.
Two Letters from Mr Daves to Capt Boys Commander of His Majesty's
Ship Greyhound, dd at Discove Fort 29th & 30th March 1744

1667

1744/5

February 12th

Letter to Mr
Wood Secy of
Customs, for an acct
of Woollen manu-
factures exported
& African Commodities
Imported.

lordsships, an acct of Imports from Africa from Christmas 1733 to Christmas
last, distinguishing each Year & how much to Port of London & how much to Out Ports, Jam - re -
Whitehall
Feb^{ry} 12th 1744/5

Trade

To William Wood Esq^r

Sir I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of Trade &
Plantations to desire y^e to procure & send them as soon as con-
veniently y^e can, an acct of Value of Woollen Manufactures
exported from England from Christmas 1740 (where last acct
from Mr Oxenford sends) to this time distinguishing each Year,
& how much from London & how much from Out Ports

I am commanded likewise to desire y^e to send the
same to the Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations
Whitehall
This^{ts} Hill

1727 1746/7

January 26th

Letter to Mr
Corbett, Secy to /
lords of Admiralty
desiring Copies of
any Papers need
by them relating
to Trade to
Africa.

To T. Corbett Esq^r Secy to Lords Comm^{rs} of Admiralty

Sir My Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations has now under
the Consideration of the State of Trade to Africa, & of the Condemn^{ed} of Forts
& Settlements there, belonging to the Royal African Co, & directed me to
desire, & y^e will please to move the Lords of Admiralty to com-
municate such parts of any Papers as may be judged necessary
to the Informⁿ of this Board, as they may be received from Captains
of His Majesty's Ships stationed on the Coast, since those trans-
mitted hitherto by the lordsships' Order in y^r letter of
24th of November, 1744. I am - re -
This^{ts} Hill

130] 1748/9.

Trade.

To / Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

January 13
Letter to / Lords
Commissioners of
His Majesty's
Treasury, upon /
Petition of Royal
African
Co of England

My Lords, Pursuant to a letter from your W^{or}ships Secre-
tary Dated / 22^d o November last, desiring our Opinion upon a Petiti-
on of Royal African Co of England, prayg, t / Summ o 10,000, wh /
House o Commons addressed His Majesty in / Year 1745 to Issue
to / sd Co Grants / Support of British Forts & Garrisons on / Coast o
Africa may be Issued to them as desired in / sd Petitiⁿ; as also upon
/ Petitiⁿ o David Crichton, one of Creditors o / sd Co, prayg, t / Seal
Summs expended by him in the service may be pd out o / sd Sum

o 10,000.

We take leave to acquaint yr W^{or}ships;
Two were attended on / 30th o November last by / Deputy Govern^r & Seal
o / Court o Assistants o Royal African Co, as also by Mr David Crichton & by a Committee
o / resp^t of Creditors o / sd Co; & have desired / sd Co to lay before us what security they
had to offer, t / 10,000 petition'd f by them shd be duly applied to / use & Service o /
British Forts & Settlements upon / Coast o Africa, Mr Kaye, / Deputy Govern^r o / sd Co
acquainted us t if / Money was petition'd f was Issued, as usual to / Co, or an
Attorney appointed by them under the Seal, as they were seal Judgements & executi^{ons}
con^{tra} agst / Co, it wd occur w^{ch} Difetty & Confusion, & therefore if it was thot proper
to name any Merchants in / City o London to be imbristled w / sd Sum / Co wd
appoint him the Attorney f t purpose.

/ Co had appointed two Persons Messrs Stockwell & Husbands to go
out w / sd Money, who if approv'd o mr go under Direct^{ions} from yr W^{or}ships,
but if not approv'd o, yr W^{or}ships mr appoint any o^r Y^{rs} shd think proper, & /
Co wd revoke the Order to Messrs Stockwell & Husbands

To wh it was alledgd by / Creditors o / sd Co t what was propos'd
by Mr Hayses wd not prevent those Persons who had Judgements out agst them,
from executing such Judgements & have thereby a Preference & advantage over / resp^t
o / Creditors, & in regard / Parliamt was now sitting, & / Co had bin requir'd
& had promis'd to be early in the Applicati^{on}, wh if they were not, they / Credi-
tors were resolv'd to be, they hoped t / Paym^t o / sd money wd be suspended
untill / Pleasure o Parliamt was known; & as it did not appear to us t
Mr Hayses, altho he sd he spoke / Sense o Court o Assistants, was Authoris'd by
any regular Minute o t Court to make / above Proposals, We desired they
wd lay before us the Proposals in Writ^{ing}, properly Authenticated under / Seal
o / sd Co.

Whereupon they did on / 14th o December last lay before us a
Memorial dated / 8th o t Month (a Copy whereof is herewith Annex'd)
wherewith they set forth what had bin before propos'd by Mr Hayses, t /
nature o / security to be given by / sd Co is under the Seal by an Applicati^{on}
f / Paym^t o / money granted, & likewise by making out under the sd Seal a
Power o Attorney to a Person to receive / same on / Co's behalf, pursuant to
an Order from yr W^{or}ships directed to / Auditor o His Majesty's Exchequer
wh Person upon paym^t o / money signs a discharge f / same on behalf o /
Co on / Bank o Order, whereupon / Money is forthwith paid into / Bank
o England, & thence drawn out to pay f Goods, Stores, Powrs &c, pur-
chast & sent out f / use & Support o / Co's Forts & Garrisons in
Africa, & Orders sent to the Chief Agents f / due Applicati^{on} thereof
f t Purpose, & t Messrs Stockwell & Husbands, whom they had ap-
pointed the Agents, had given them undoubted Security in Five Thousand
Pounds each, as also the own personal security in ten Thousand pounds
each, f / faithfull discharge o the Trust.

This appears to us to be no more than / usual manner in wh / sd
Co h received such Sums o Money as h bin granted to them by Parliamt
& t / Security given by Messrs Stockwell & Husbands to / sd Co is no more
than / Private Security usually taken by them from the Agents, & no security
whatso^{ev}er to / Publick f / due Applicati^{on} o / money to / Purposes f wh it
was Voted, We Submit to yr W^{or}ships how far it may be reasonable to
Issue to / sd Co / Summ o 10,000 petition'd f by them.

As respect to

We respect to / Petition of Mrs David Crichton We must beg take leave
to acquaint yr Lordships,

That / Royal African Co is certified to us that / Contents directed are just
a true & R likewise represented to us that Mrs Crichton's debt was incurred upon
/ Publick Faith & / Support of sd Forts & Garrisons at a time when, wth
such Assistance, they must have been deserted, & wth any Profit or Advantage
whatsoever to Mrs Crichton, wh^{ch} they sd was a Diff^r Case fm / sd Creditors, who
sold the Goods of gr Profit, to wh^{ch} it was alleged by / Committee of / House of
Creditors of sd Co, that Mrs Crichton's case was not diff^r fm that of / Creditors, as /
Money could not be advanced on / Faith of / Address of / House of Commons in 1745,
wh^{ch} was subsequent to such discharge, & that / Debts of / sd Creditors are equally
on / Faith of / Publick & for use & Service of / Forts & Settlements; in answer to
wh^{ch} Mrs Crichton sd that altho' money was advanced by her previous to / sd
Address, yet as / Parliament had from Year to Year granted sev^l Sums to / sd Co
be repaid upon a Reimbursement fm / next Grant;

Re likewise informed us that / Bill mentioned in his Petition was drawn by
him on / Co on / first of May 1745, & that in December following he received
advice of its having been protested, wth Promise however, that it should be paid out of
next money, & it appearing to us that / Parliament had granted £20,000 to / sd Co
in 1744, & a further Sum of £10,000 in 1746. We enquired of sd Co how the
servants came to be in such necessity in 1745 & why Mrs Crichton's debt
was not paid discharged out of sd £10,000, to wh^{ch} they alleged that / ships
sent out by / Co to Africa in September 1744 were detained till March
1745, & that / reason of / Co's not discharging Mrs Crichton's debt out of £10,000
granted in 1746, was that they did not know wh^{ch} his Bill w^{as} not have been
paid in / Coast.

Upon / whole however as there is gr Reason to believe, fm what has ap-
peared to us that / Sum stated in Mrs Crichton's Petition was really advanced
by her as there is set forth & at a time when / Officers of / Co were in gr necessity,
& / Inconvenience must have arisen if they had not been supplied by her, We
submit it to yr Lordships' Consideration how far Mrs Crichton's case, wh^{ch}
appears to us to be a very compassionate one, may deserve yr Lordships'

Favour. We are — — —

Whitehall
January 13th 1748/9

Dunk Halifax
J Grenville
Dupplin

192] 1749

July 14th.
Letter to /
Deputy Secy &
Counc^l of Assistants
of / Royal African
Co relating to a
Scheme of better
Securing & improving
/ Trade to Africa

193] Marg^{ts} note July 19th A Circular Letter to / Master of Merchants Hall at Bristol —
Mr Handman, Merch^{ts} at Liverpool — Slingsby Bethel Secy of / Trades of London —
Mr John Sharpe of / Planters; — in relation to a Scheme of better securing, improving
& extending / Trade to Africa.

[End of CO 389/30, / wth it having
been copied on 1/2 foolscap paper]

CO. 389/31

1760-1767 Q. ~~Memorandum~~

Letters Gen L

Feb 21 1765 vide p 21 publ.

CO. 389/32

"R
Trade
Letters written
March 1764
to
March 1776"

142] 1764
March 24.

To/Committee o/ Co o Merchants tradg to Africa.
Gentlemen

I am directed by Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations to remind y of Reference made to y by th^r Lordships, some time ago, o/ Representa^m o/ Dutch West Indies Co statg th^r Claim to a Right o exclusive Possession o Cape Appollonia; & to desire y will be pleased to make yr Report thereon w all convenient Dispatch I am - &c - John Pownall

Trade

170] 1764
July 29th

To/ Right Honourable Earl o Shelburne, One o his Majesty's principal Secretaries o State
My Lord,

Hasg in Obedience to His Majesty's Commands signified to us by yr Lordships Letter o/ 2^d Feb^y last, prepared an humble Representa^m to His Majesty, upon / Memorials o/ Dutch Minister M^ont^r Welderem relative to / Claims & Complaints wh / Dutch West India Co R exhibited in Consequence o / proceedgs o His Majesty's Subjects at Cape Appollonia; We beg leave to inclose / sd Representa^m to yr Lordship, & to desire y will be pleased to lay it before His Majesty. We are - &c -

John Roberts
Wm Fitzherbert
Thomas Robinson

Trade.

171] 1764
July 29th

To / Kings most excellent Majesty.

May it please yr Majesty,

In Obedience to Yr Majesty's Commands, signified to us by / Earl o Shelburne, One o Yr Majesty's principal Secretaries o State, in his Letter o/ 2^d February last, we h taken into our Considera^m / Memorials o His Excellency M^ont^r Welderem, Envoy ~~extraordinary~~ & Plenipotentiary on / part o His high mightiness / States Gen, togr w / Documents thereunto annexed; whereby it appears t / Dutch West India Co, in Consequence o / Remonstrances made by Yr Majesty's Ambassador at / Hague, agst / Conduct o the Govern^r o Elmina on / Gold Coast, h on th^r part preferred Counter - Complaints agst / proceedgs o / Chief o Cape Coast Castle, & exhibited Claims o an exclusive Right to Cape Appollonia, where / Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg to Africa are makg an Establishment & erectg a Fort under / Protec^m & ab / Inst^r o Ammoniah, / Cabbower o t Place, in pursuance o a Grant o Parliam^t f t purpose.

And

And t we mt neglect no Means o obtaining all possible Informⁿ in a matter o
this Imp^t, (/ Materials f wh we cd not be supplied wth fm / Records in our Office) we
did upon this Occⁿ call before us / Committee o Merchants abov mentioned, togth wth
/ late Govern^r o Cape Coast Castle, Messrs Bell & m^{rs}; & hav^g communicated
to them / Representⁿ o / Dutch West India Co wth / Documents annexed, referred to
in Mon^r Celseders's Memorial, we did require o them t take / same into
the immediate Considerⁿ and to report to us the^r Opinion upon / whole, togth wth
all such Facts o Observⁿs as they hd t offer in answer to / Claims &
Complaints o / sd Dutch West India Co; and / sd Committee hav^g accord^gly
made the^r Report to us, we humbly beg leave to annex herewith a Copy thereof,
wth / several Papers subjunct thereto, & hav^g attentively considered all t
has bⁿ urged on each Side / Questⁿ we humbly beg leave to represent to yr
Majesty; T it is alledged by / Dutch, as / Original & Foundⁿ o those
Claims, wh are to be / Subject o our present Enquiry, t / District o Cape
Appolonia, hav^g bⁿ included in those Territories, wh / Portuguese
formerly possessed on / Coast o Africa, became th^rs by Right o Conquest,
when / Reducⁿ o Fort S' Antonio put them in Possesⁿ o all those Countries
wh were held in Dependancy thereupon; And in support o this
allegⁿ they produce / Copy o a former Cession or surrender, wh / Chiefs
o / Province o Sumoree made o the Country to / Dutch West India Co in
on / 13th Jan^y 1654, in wh Surrender they contend t Cape Appolonia
was o Course, included as part o / above Province.

174
1767

175] Tho^{se} the^r are many Circumst^s attend^g the State [sic] o the
Title to Cape Appolonia, wh mt well justify us in disput^g / Validity
o the^r Pretensⁿs, even if / Facts on wh they are founded were far more
recent than they are; yet now at so distant a Period o Time, after /
Interseⁿ o a Century & upwards we sh wth [sic] all Discussⁿ o them,
as beg wholly immaterial to / matter in Questⁿ; see^g t / Dutch in
all this Course o time h never once assailed themselves o this the^r pretended
Right to Cape Appolonia by way o Acts o Settlem^t or Possesⁿ, or even
by exhibit^g / customary Ensigns o Sovereignty; but t on / contrary it
does appear gently fm / Report o all who h bⁿ concern'd in / Trade
o this Coast, & more partly fm / Deposits on oath o / British
Mariners annexed to / Committee's Report, t / Trade at / Cape
directly wth / natives has ~~always~~ bⁿ always free & open to any
European Natⁿ.

These Facts beg undisputable, / Dutch resist to ^{yr} Arguments
& Assesⁿs in Support o the^r Claims; & in / first Place maintain, t,
when^r any Settlem^t has bⁿ attempted by any European Natⁿs, they
h never failed to assert the^r just Right o Precedence, by caus^g
such Intruders to abandon the^r Establishm^ts & depart;

176
1777

And in / sd [sic many second] Place they pretend t ~~this~~
the^r Title, tho^{se} founded in so distant a Period, cannot be con-
sidered as obsolete & abandoned, as it has upon various sub-
sequent Occasⁿs bⁿ renovated & confirm'd by repeated Acts
o Homage & Surrender fm / Chiefs o / Country, & o late in a more
express & part^r Manner by Ammoniah himself.

We sh now proceed to examine / Proofs & Documents
Exhibited by / Dutch, as they apply themselves to one or o² o two
Posins above-stated; And in / first place therefore we sh beg leave
briefly to state to yr Majesty what Measures appear to h bⁿ
taken by the^r West India Co f present^g or remov^g any
Encroachm^ts, t h bⁿ made by people o ^{yr} Natⁿs on the^r pretended
exclusive Rights to Cape Appolonia.

And

177
1767

And these measures h^{ve} b^{een} confined (as appears by the Documents) to two Instances only; The first o' these refers to an Occurrence wh^{ich} passed so long ago as / year 1656, when / Swedes, who were then in Possession o' Cape Coast, attempted to settle themselves & erect a Fort at Cape Appollonia, but desisted (as / Dutch assert) fm^t Enterprise in Consequence o' the Remonstrances; The 2^d has ~~been~~ Relation to a Fact o' a much more recent Date, when an Englishman o' name o' Stockwell settled & established himself at / Cape, & resided thr^{ough} f^{or} some time f^{or} / Purpose o' trading w^{ith} / Natives; but was (accord^{ing} to the account wh^{ich} / Dutch give o' this Matter) at length expelled fm^{thence} by / Caboteer Ammoniah, at / Instance o' the Director Gen. Van Coorck.

1787

Both these Facts, as we humbly conceive, are misrep^{re}sented on / part o' / Dutch. w^{ith} respect to / Affairs o' / Swedes it is difficult indeed as well as needless to trace a circumstantiated a Transaction o' such antiquity; but thus much evidently appears fm^{the} / Papers & Down^{to} w^hch we are furnished by / Dutch themselves, t^{hat} the Director Gen did indeed complain, tho' in v^{ery} humble Terms, o' Swedish Gov^{er}n^{or}'s seat^{ing} himself at / Cape; represent^{ing} / Detriment t^{hat} w^{ould} ensue thereby to / Dutch Fishery thr^{ough}, & excus^{ing} himself at / same time to / Satisfaction o' Remonstrances he was then mak^{ing} upon principles o' commercial Policy, wh^{ich} (as he conceived) justified him in tak^{ing} all measures f^{or} check^{ing} & restrain^{ing} / Trade o' Sweden, as well as f^{or} advanc^{ing} & encourag^{ing} t^{hat} o' Holland.

1797

fm^{the} this Style & Manner o' ~~Express~~ Express^{ions} we may fairly conclude t^{hat} / Dutch did not then openly avow any exclusive Right to Cape Appollonia, as absolute Lords & Sovereigns o' / Country, see^{ing} t^{hat} / Director Gen, had he considered his Principles in this light, w^{ould} not h^{ave} confined his Complaints merely to / Damage wh^{ich} the Fishery was likely to receive, but w^{ould} no Doubt h^{ave} stated in high Terms / Injury & Viola^{tion} wh^{ich} were committed upon the Inherent Rights & Possessions by this Encroach^{ment} o' / Swedes.

1807 1767

In what light t^{he} had considered these Claims & Pretensions o' / Dutch. (wh^{ich} if grounded on the Conquests fm^{the} / Portuguese, as they now maintain must h^{ave} b^{een} then, if at any time, fresh & in force) may be infer^{red} fm^{the} / Contemptuous Answer, wh^{ich} / Swedish Govern^{or} returned to these Complaints: he tells them t^{hat} he will not build one Fort only, but two or three if necessary, & t^{hat} he w^{ould} fain see what Means / Dutch w^{ould} take to hinder him, demand^{ing} at / same time wh^{ich} he is to consider them as Friends or Enemies, t^{hat} he m^{ight} regulate himself accord^{ing}ly.

1817

At this Period / Dutch Documents leave us; so t^{hat} altho' it is certain t^{hat} / Swedes did in Fact abandon the Settlem^{ent} at / Cape, yet we may w^{ith} good Reason conclude fm^{the} / Spirit & Language o' above-mentioned Answers t^{hat} the Departure fm^{thence} was not in all probability quickened or occasioned by what / Dutch Director Gen had urged upon / Occas^{ion}.

The 2^d Inst^{ance} wh^{ich} they produce o' this Sort, is in / Case o' one Richard Stockwell an English Trader, whom they pretend t^{hat} Ammoniah / Chief o' / Appollonians at the Inst^{ance} drove & expelled fm^{the} / Cape.

The Report wh^{ich} was h^{ere} received o' this Fact fm^{the} / African Committee intirely contradicts / above Acc^{ount}; they assert t^{hat} Stockwell continued at / Cape as long as his Affairs required his prese^{nce}, & then departed w^{ith} any force or Compul^{sion} fm^{the} Ammoniah, leav^{ing} behind him, Mr Livingston his Agent, who resided thr^{ough} a considerable Time, & hav^{ing} settled & adjusted all his Concerns, in like Manner w^{as} his Principal, voluntarily retired. In these

1827

Two contradictory Acts we think we may venture to pronounce t all /
Appears o Truth are on / Side o / latter: As / Dutch never communicated
w Stockholm, when settled at / Cape, but thro' / Intervention o Ammoniah, it is
not unprobable they shd be deceiv'd as to / terms o his Abode thro; or /
Motives f his Departure; And as t person cd not h originally sealed
himself thro or remained in t Settlement, but upon Sufferce fm
Ammoniah & rest o / natives, so we may reasonably conclude t his
Reside hd not bin offensive to them, nor his Departure precipitate &
compelled, when he was allow'd to leave, behind a Representative
f / purposes o carryg on his Affairs in t Country.

1837 1764.

We come now to / second Head o Enquiry, under wh we are to
examine / seal Acts o absolute Cession & Surrender, wh / Dutch pretend to
h bin made to thr West India Co, at diff Periods by / Chiefs &
Caboceros o Cape Appollonia, & in a late Instance more partely by
Ammoniah himself.

In a letter fm / Director Gen & Council o Elmina to / Gov: o
Cape Coast Castle dd. / 14th o June 1766, we find it in gen Terms
asserted, t Cession h bin fm time to time repeated upon evy
Change o thr Governor o Assam, / Appollonians, constantly
acknowledg'd / new Commander as thr Chief. In like gen Terms it is
set forth, t upon / Swedes evacuatg Cape Appollonia, / natives did by
a solemn Act o Homage & Submission make a fresh & absolute Surrender
o thr Country; This is no head as we conceive, to enter into any fur
Discussn o these Allegans, as they stand upon / bare Credit o gen Asser^{ns}
entirely unsupported by any proofs or Vouchers whatsr.

1847

It is impossible therefore to ascertain how far these Acts o
Homage & Surrender were meant to extend by those who made
them; at what Periods & by whom they were executed; what Terms
& Conditions were stipulated f & required on / behalf o those who
performed this Voluntary Service; in short, wh they ever hd any
Meaning or Substance fur them as Acts o adulatory [sic] Address &
Compliment common amng^t / Negroes on this Coast, when they
wanted either Presents, or Assistance fm / Europeans t are settled
settled amng^t them.

1857

Weak & inconclusive as these Asser^{ns} o / Dutch
may seem, it must be confessed t they h not entirely confined
themselves to such Vague & gen Proofs; They refer us to
Documents, wherein various Acts o Cession & Surrender are recited:
o these one was made in / Year 1658, by / People o / Province o
Abrampiquee; and^r in 1694, by / Inhabitants o / Igouira Country;
And a third in / Year 1742, by / Caboceros o / Puser Cobre
& / Country adjacent: Amng^t these Instruments wh they h thus
carefully registered & preserved, not one o them has / least
Reference to / Country in dispute; And by thr assiduity in thus
transmittg Documents, wh are entirely superfluous, they only
furnish us w stronger Reasons to disbelieve thr Asser^{ns}
in all those Cases where they h no such Vouchers to support them.

1867

And Inference likewise will naturally be drawn fm these
Facts, wh is, t / Dutch West India Co by producg so many
Instruments, wherein gr or extensive Territories are sd to be
voluntarily ceded & surrendered to them, seem in gr Measure
to h confirmed our Suggesn, t these Deeds hd no o^r View or
Intent than to serve / present Purposes o those who executed
them; But admittg these Acts o Cession & Surrender to h bin
as absolute & complet & as well auth^d & heath^d as /
Dutch would wish them to be that, still we conceive t no
Pretens^{ns} deriv'd fm Facts o this Nature, can h any possible

187
1767 Weight & Validity when they h^e not b^e followed & enforced by
actual Settlement & Possession, by wh^o alone Territorial Rights &
Title in this Part o^f World can be duly & properly
established

The only Argum^t o^f Dutch West India Co t^h now
remains to be considered is, / pretended Cession o^f Cape Appollonia
on / 19th day o^f Febr^y 1753, by this v^y Ammoniah to whose Defectⁿ
& Revolt they complain t^h v^r Majesty's Subjects on t^h Coast h^e b^e
g^tly instrumental, & under whose Protectⁿ they are now settling
themselves & erectg a Fort at / Cape.

188
By referring to / Documents in wh^o this pretended Cession
o^f Ammoniahs is recited, / first Circumstance wh^o strikes us, is,
t^h this unimp^t Deed, whereby a whole Territory is sd to be
absolutely ceded & surrendered by its lawfull Chief &
Sovereign, is, unfortunately b^e those who wd avail themselves
o^f it, defective & imperfect in / most material Requisite
belongg to it: It is not, as they wd represent it, / Act o^f
Ammoniahs himself; not beg signed & executed by him,
but by two Persons said to be his Son & Cousin & to be
delegated by him b^e this Purpose. As this is a Circumstance
wh^o fm / best Informⁿ we are able to procure, is w^o precedent
in t^h part o^f World, it shoud seem highly
necessary to support / credibility o^f so x by a Fact, t^h these
Delegates, or, as they are stiled, Ambassadors, shd h^e exhibited
some authentick Power or Commission fm Ammoniahs in whose
name they pretend to h^e acted: Nothg o^f this sort is produced
or even quoted by / Dutch; nor any proof o^f Ammoniahs
Ratificⁿ o^f or Acquiesce in this Act o^f his Commissioners;
as evideⁿ o^f this Sort woud o^f Course h^e b^e transmitted
w^o / last Cession, & wh^o w^o such evideⁿ is rendered thus
doubtfull & imperfect, we m^t w^o good Reason conclude t^h
none such docs exist.

189
A few obvious Remark occurs to us upon perusal
o^f this Document, wh^o is, t^h instead o^f findg it to be, as it is
stated by / Dutch, an Act o^f entire & absolute Cession, w^o
Conclⁿ or reverse, it does evidently appear to be a free
& independant Treaty or Conventⁿ, mutually bondg upon
each Party, & wherein / Dutch Director Fern has
covenanted & agreed on his Side never to excite /
neighbourg Nations to make War upon Ammoniahs,
or otherwise in any Manner disturb him, while he sh^d
behave himself accordg to / Tenors o^f present Contract;
He further stipulates to supply Ammoniahs w^o arms, & otherwise
to assist him in Case o^f Rupture w^o any o^f neighbourg
Nations

190
191
fm this plain & impartial Recital it shd seem, t^h / Dutch
West India Co, previous to this Conventⁿ, cd not possibly consider
themselves as having an exclusive Right & Title to Cape
Appollonia; f^o in t^h Case what necessity wd th^e h^e b^e of them
thus to treat w^o th^e own Subjects & Vassals in a Time o^f
profound Peace. On / contrary, it clearly appears, if any
Credit is to be given to / Commission upon wh^o these Delegates
acted, t^h th^e principal Ammoniahs treated w^o / Dutch as
a free & independant Prince, / lawfull Sovereign o^f his
Country: How comes it then, to pass when they wd
invalidate / Rights o^f v^r Majesty's Subjects to a Settlement

192
1767
on Cape Appollonia from his free & voluntary Grant, & they then stile this same Ammoniah a foreign Warriour, / Son o a Negro Woman o Achim, / Surr al o the Co a Rebel. What went had occurred to produce this total Resolⁿ in Ammoniah's person & Affairs? / Dutch, in Consequ^e of above Treaty, proceeded to take Possessⁿ o this Country, & to settle & fortify themselves at / Cape. Nothing o this sort had bin attempted; / Trade appears to h. remained open & accessible to all People, as before; & / Country to h. continued in / quiet & peaceable Possessⁿ o its nature this - natural 2.7 & original Proprietors: But But / Dutch will contend t Cape Appollonia had bin absolutely ceded & surrendered by / Bat above-mentioned: We h. before shews t this Surrender was con- ditional; t / Dutch had bound themselves by this Contract to keep & observe certain Terms & Conditions w Ammoniah, in failure o wh on the Side, he wd o Course be released fm his part o / Agree^{mt}.

Now t / Dutch were / first to break off & depart fm / above Contract w Ammoniah, we conceive does undeniably appear fm / Transac^{ns} (as related in / Memorial o / African Committee hereunto annexed) wh h. finally engaged him in a War w / Dutch, & brot on an Alliance w yr Majesty's Subjects.

193.
1
From this Period therefore we consider all Communicaⁿ & Connecⁿ betw / Appollonians & / Dutch West India Co is at an End, & t / Voluntary Surrender o this Country made to our African Co, who h. in Consequ^e thereof proceeded to settle themselves at Cape Appollonia, where under / Sancⁿ o Parliamt they are now erectg a Fort; was / formal act o a free & independant People unrestrictid by any Engag^{mt} what^{sr}. How therefore can it be inferd t our Treaties w / Dutch than we violated by this Proceedg? May not answer be made to them in / same Terms they applied to / Swedes, t Commercial Policy, wh warrants our taking all lawful means o improving our own Trade, & checkg t o o^r Trans, fully justifies our Conduct on this Occasⁿ?

194.
1
11
195.
In Majesty has now before y what we humbly conceive to be a full & explicit Answer to all / Claims & Complaints o / Dutch relative to this Proceedg, as far as they h. come to our Knowledge; & this Answer we must observe to yr Majesty is not confined to / Representaⁿ made by / African Committee but is chiefly drawn fm / Papers & Documents o / Dutch them selves. From the own Relatⁿ it appears t the Rights as founded upon the Conquests fm / Portuguese (admittg what is not proved t / Portuguese had any Right themselves) h. bin long since void & extinct, havg never bin exerted or put in force by any acts o Sovereignty or Possessⁿ: / Measures, wh they h. taken o present^{ly} o^r Trans fm effects these Settlements at / Cape, wh they themselves neglected to make, h. bin / just Instur they h. produced, bin found to h. bin weak, ineffectual & inconclusive: / their Claims fm Acts o Cess^{es} & Surrender are all reducible to t one doubtful Treaty w Ammoniah, / Conditions & Stipula^{ns} o wh they h. not observed & o Course, forfeited all / Use & Advantage they m^o d^o use h. derived fm it. Yr Majesty's Subjects on / contrary, h. bin more active & diligent to avail themselves o Ammoniah's Friendship & Alliance; & as far hitherto appears, h. better deserved it.

196.
Upon / whole therefore we are clearly o Opinion t / African Committee are fully justified in / Measures they h. taken, & are now pursuing, o establishg a Settlement & Fort at Cape Appollonia; & t it will not be o yr Majesty's Honour & / Interest o this Kingdom, to dose w / Proposal made by / Dutch Minister Count Selderem in his Memorial above-mentioned, recommendg a Suspendⁿ o all Operat^{ns} on each Side relative to / Constructⁿ o this Fort, till / above Matters in dispute sh. be fully & finally adjusted. All wh is most humbly submitted.

Whitehall
July 29th 1767.

Clare
John Roberts
W^m Fitz Herbert
Thomas Robinson

198
1767
Oct 27th

To / Right Honourable / Lords of / Committee of His Majesty's most
honourable Privy Council of Plantations Affairs

"Bundle
Nm 1."
CO 388/55

My Lords Pursuant to yr Lordships Order of 9th Inst, we h taken
into our Consideration / Petition of / Committee of / Co of Merchants trading
to Africa, humbly praying "His Majesty's Royal licence for exporting
" thirty hundred Weight of Biscuit, & one hundred Weight of wheat Flour
" to Cape Coast Castle, on / Coast of Africa, for / Support & Maintenance of
" / said Forts & Garrisons, on t Coast" whereupon we h been pleased to refer
to yr Lordships, & an Act havy been passed in / last Sesⁿ of Parliamt
entitled "An Act to prohibit for a limited time, / Exportation of Corn, Grain,
" Meale, Malt, Flour, Bread, Biscuit, & Starch; & also / Extra^m of low Wines
" & Spirits fm wheat & wheat flour"; by wh Act His Majesty is authorized
& empowered by this Royal Proclamⁿ to prohibit / Exportation of all or
any of sd Commodities after / Expian of sd Act, for any time or times,
untill twenty Days after / Commencmt of next Sesⁿ of Parliamt
such Prohibition not to extend to certain Excep^{ns}, stated in / sd Act; And
his Majesty havy judged it expedient by his Order in Council of 29th of
August last, accordingly to prohibit / Exportation of all / sd Commodities, for
/ time above specified; We must submit it to yr Lordships Decⁿ, wh
His Majesty by / Proviso of / above recited Act is limited to make such
Excep^{ns} only, as are therein mentioned (withm wh, as we conceive,
/ Forts & Garrisons in Quⁿ cannot be construed to h been included)
or whr, agreeable to / powers thereby given, His Majesty may, by this
Royal Proclamⁿ make such further Addition or Addition to / sd
Excep^{ns}, as to him sh seem expedient; wh latter Propⁿ, shd yr
Lordships be inclined to adopt as yr Opinion, we should in t case
conceive, t it wd be advisable for His Majesty, in Compliance w /
Petition of / Committee of / Co of Merchants trading to Africa, to grant them
his Royal licence for exporting / said Provisions therein named,
accordg to / Quantities set forth, for / Support & Maintenance of t
Forts & Garrisons on / sd Coast.

200.

Whitehall
Oct 27th 1767

We are - &c -
Clare
J. Dyson
Wm Fitzherbert

Trade

226
1769
May 2.

To / King's most excellent Majesty,
May it please yr Majesty

"Bundle
Do. 30"
CO 388/56
227

The Committee of / Co of Merchants trading to Africa havy
presented to us a Memorial, humbly praying t some proper Person
may be authorized & appointed by yr Majesty to administer / Oath
required to be taken by / Officers & Servants & Officers on / Coast of
Africa in the Accts, annually transmitted to / sd Committee. We
h accordingly taken this Memorial into our Consideration, & humbly
beg leave to represent to yr Majesty
t by an Act passed in / fifth Year of yr Majesty's Reign, "for
" better regulatg / Trade to Africa, amongst o^r Things it is enacted,
" t / Officers & Servants of / sd Committee on / Coast of Africa, to
" whom any Goods or Stores sh be consigned by / Committee sh
" be required to transmit, once at least in ev^{ry} Year, an Acct of /
" Disposal & Application of all such Goods & Stores within / precedg
" Year, havy first made Oath to / Truth of Acct before such
" Person as sh be authorized by yr Majesty, yr Heir or
" Successors to administer / same."
And whereas / sd Committee, in / Memorial above mentioned,
has represented to us, t t^{he} Officers & Servants on / sd Coast h,
n'ting this repeated Direction to them to comply w this Regulaⁿ of /
Act above recited, transmitted Books & Accts not properly attested;

228.

wh Omission they apprehend is usy to / want a some person properly authorized to administer ~~the~~ Oaths, as above directed; We are, of this reason, humbly o Opinion, t it will be advisable f yr Majesty to empower such Person or Persons as to yr Majesty sh seem most proper, to administer / Oaths, as above directed, to / Officers & Servants o / sd Committee in passg the ~~Acts~~ Acts, & thereby ~~facilitate~~ facilitate the Completio w / Regularity o / Act above mentioned

Wh is most humbly submitted

Whitehall
May 2^d 1769 }

Hillsborough
Svame Snygus
John Roberts
Wm Fitz Herbert
Thomas Robinson
Lichborne.

231.
1769
July 27th

Trade

To / Right Honourable / Earl o Rochford One o His Majesty's Secretaries o State
My Lord

"Bundle
Oo. 44"

CO. 988/56

The Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg to Africa have Communi- cated to us a letter they h lately received from the Chief Officer at Cape Coast Castle, in wh he represents / prejudice sustained by His Majesty's Subjects in the Commerce upon t Coast for / Steps Taken by / Officers o / Dutch West India Co to prevent Portuguese Vessells sellg Tobacco to British Traders. We beg leave to inclose to yr Lordship a Copy o / sd letter

232.

We are not able to inform yr Lordship upon what pretice so stry a proceedg on / part o / Officers o / Dutch West India Co is founded, but we submit to yr Lordship, wh it may not be advisable t His Majesty's Ministers w / Hague shd be instructed to make / proper remonstrances agst a practice so prejudicial to / Interests o His Majesty's Subjects, & so inconsistent w / Friendship & good understandg t O t subsist betw / Subjects o two powers so closely united in interest & alliance We are - re -

Hillsborough

Ed Elliot
Wm Fitz Herbert

Thomas Robinson

[no address
or date]

Trade

238.
1769
December 16th

To Richard Campkin Esq^r

Sir, I am directed by / Lords Commissioners f Trade & Plantans to signify to y, t the Lordships desire to see some v / Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg to Africa on Thursday next / 21st Instant, on / subject o / last memorial presented by them, complaining o / Conduct o / Dutch West India Co upon / Coast o Africa in obstructg Portuguese Vessels tradg w His Majesty's Subjects & denyg a free Passage to Cape Appolonia

"Bundle
Pp. 23."

CO. 988/54

[no address
or date]

? am - re -

John Pownall

251.

1770

April 11th

"Bundle"

Pp. 16-21

CO. 988/54

To/ Right Honourable / Earl o Rochford, One o His Majesty's
Principal Secretaries o State.
My Lord

In obedience to His Majesty's Commands, signified to us
by Your Lordships in yr Letter o / 24th o November 1769, w^{ch}
h^{as} taken into our Consideration / Extract o Sir Joseph Yorke's Letter to
yr Lordship, dated / 10th o / sd Month, together wth all / Copies,

Transcripts & papers inclosed in yr Lordships' sd Letter o Reference
relative to / Complaints, preferred agst / Dutch Factory at Elmina,
on / Coast o Africa, f / Interruption given by them to / Trade o /
British Settlements on t Coast in / Article o Brazil Tobacco; by
discourag^g / Portuguese Vessels, fr^{om} resort^g to / sd Settlements
wth t commodity; by making agst them sundry Restrictions &
impos^{ns}, f / purpose (as it sh^d seem) o exclud^g / British
African Co fr^{om} any participⁿ in t most & indispensable
branch o commerce, whereupon we beg leave to Observe to
yr Lordship,

252

1. upon refer^g back to / Correspondence, w^{ch} at various times
has passed betwⁿ / Servants o Our Co & those o / Dutch on / Coast
o Africa, relative to their Conduct towards / Portuguese Ships, w^{ch} bring
Tobacco to our Factories, (w^{ch} appears to h^{ave} been matter o Complaint
for many Years past) we find t on / 11th day o July 1708 an
Article o Agreement was made betwⁿ Sir Dalby Thomas, Governor o
Cape Coast Castle, & Peter Nuyts Esquire, Dutch Gen, to / follow^g
Effect, viz: "I such Portuguese ship or Ships, as sh^d come to
"Anchor in any o / roads belong^g to / English Forts or Factories, sh^d
"not be molested by any Dutch Ship or Ships belong^g to / sd Co;
"nor be block'd up by them in / sd English Roads; nor attack'd
"or seized, as they go out o / sd Roads; neither sh^d they offer to
"Seize any such Ship or Ships, t^h by force put them selves
"under / protectⁿ o any English Fort, or be in possessⁿ o any
"English Ship, the [?] having one o / sd Royal Co's Servants on
"board certify^g / same; t^h on / sd side none o / English Forts or
"Co's Ships sh^d protect or Seize any Portuguese, w^{ch} were first
"in possessⁿ o any Dutch West India Co's Ship; neither sh^d
" / English Gen, or Chief Director f / time beg^g grant passports
"to any Portuguese Ship go^g to, or fr^{om} Brazil, or any o^r o /
"Portuguese Islands"

253.

254

In / Year 1713 on / 16th o May / Articles made
in 1708, as above, were ratified by Messrs Grosvonor, Phipps
& Blean Directors f / Royal African Co at Cape Coast
Castle, & Gen Hieronimus Haas^g Haaring at Elmina, w^{ch}
/ follow^g addⁿ viz: "As it is not mentioned in / Dutch
"Originals o / y^e Article (as above recited) t^h / Royal
"African Co's Servants, put on board any Portuguese
"Vessel f / its protectⁿ, sh^d h^{ave} a Certificate f / same; it is
"hereby furth agreed, t^h / Portuguese sh^d not be molested
"by / Dutch Co's Servants resid^g here, o what degree
"or quality so^{ev}, or by any o / th^{er} Ships, / sd Portuguese
"having on board one o / Royal African Co's Servants,
"either fr^{om} th^{er} Ships or Factories, as a Certificate signify^g
"fr^{om} whom or whence he came";

255

On / 28th o January 1728 Copies were drawn out o both forego^d Agreements,
each sig. ratified by Messrs Braithwaite & Crickshank, Chief Agents at Cape
Coast Castle & Mr Robert Morse Genl at Elmina; to wh were added 1st
Articles & Deputies sent by both parties w them on board His Majesty's
Ship Sophia, Capt^m John Smith, who signed for His name at / End o all;
as did also / Deputies. One o / Articles made on board / sd Ship is as
follows, viz^t

256
1770

"I to prevent effectually all diffe^s o what nature soever, it is
" mutually agreed, t all Articles o Agreements & Contracts, hitherto made &
" confirmed by our Predecessors & / respective Cos, sh remain in full
" force & virtue, & be unviolably kept & preserved by our respective
" principals & Successors"

The above-mentioned Chief Agents & Genl signed also to / same.

The above Articles o Contract & Agreem^t, thus ratified &
Confirmed by / Representatives o / respective Cos, are, as we conceive, still
257 kinds upon each; & altho / present Co o British Merchants tradg to Africa
h ben instituted & incorporated by Act o Parliam^t o 23rd o His late
Majesty, subsequent to / ratificⁿ o these Agreements; yet, as special care was
had, both in / above Act, & more partly in t o 25th o His sd Majesty's
making Compensam to / Old Co, thereby to make over & convey all
Contracts & Agreements, all Deeds, Writings, Evidences or Instruments, Books
o Acc^t, & all Papers o what kind or nature soever belong^g, or wh did
belong to / sd Co, we think it is clear, both fm / letter & spirit o this
Act, t / above recited Contracts & Agreements did not cease & determine
258 to^g w / sd late Royal African Co; but were kept in force by Virtue
o / sd Act, & transferred, to^g w the Charter, to / Co now Subsist^g, in
common w all o^r / privileges, advantages, & prerogatives therewto annexed.

Upon these grounds we submit it to yr Lordship, wh^o it will not
be proper, t His Majesty's Ambassadors at / Hague should be entrusted
to require, t / Directors o / Dutch West India Co sh order the Servants
on / Coast o Africa faithfully to execute & fulfill / above Subsist^g
Articles o Agreem^t, accordg to the Original force & Intent; to wh requisitⁿ
259 we conceive no Obje^cion can reasonably be Opposed, in as much as they
seem constructed upon a Plan o Justice & equity, calculated t /
terminatⁿ o all disputes & Complaints, or equally accommodat^g to both
parties.

In this proposal we h / Concurrence o / Committee o African
Merchants, who h attended our Deliberants on this Occasⁿ; & fm
the report, as well as fm a Variety o Records in our Office all
confirm^g / same testimony, w respect t / encroach^g Spirit o / Dutch
Factories on t Coast, We think it our duty, before we close these Obser-
vations, to recommend it as a measure, w^o wh no permanent redress
is to be expected in these Complaints, to provide f / regular
260 Successⁿ o such Naval force on t Coast, as by its Superiority to
t o / Dutch sh secure / executⁿ o these o^r Agreements accordg to
Justice & good faith; & in / meantime protect / Cos Trade &
Settlements fm such o^r Injuries & inconveniencies, as, by an
inferiority in / above respect, they seem at present exposed to
We are

Whitehall
April 11th 1770 }

Joame Jenyns
Geo. Price
Wm Fitzherbert

265. 1771
May 22^d

To/Right Honorable / Earl o Halifax, one o His Majesty's
Principall Secretaries o State

My Lord

The Officers & Servants o Dutch West India Co upon
Coast o Africa, having for some time past obstructed Commerce
carried on by His Majesty's Subjects upon the Coast wth Portuguese
Vessels of Brazil Tobacco, we did, in a letter to / Earl o Rochford,
dated April 11th 1770 state to his Lordship such Informⁿ as
we were able to procure, respect^g / rights o / things Subjects
in this Case, together wth our Opinion thereupon.

By / inclosed Copies o a letter & its inclosures,
lately received by / Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg to
Africa from / Chief o Cape Coast Castle, yr Lordship will see,
th^t / Officers o / Dutch West India Co still keep up &
endeavour to support the pretens^{ns}, & therefore it is our
duty to communicate them to yr Lordship, th^t / said yr
Lordship may take such Steps thereupon, as sh^{al} appear to yr
Lordship to be proper We are - &c -
Whitehall
May 22^d 1771

Ed Eliot
John Roberts
Wm Fitzherbert
Thomas Chuteley

"Bundle Qq."
33
34
35

CO 388/58

266

Trade

267. 1771
June 19th

To/Right Honorable / Earl o Suffolk, one o His Majesty's
Principall Secretaries o State

My Lord In Obedience to His Majesty's Commands,

signified to us by yr Lordship's letter of 14th Instant,
we herewith send to yr Lordship, in order to be
transmitted to Sir Joseph York, Copies o / Consente
belium / Servants o / Royal African Co o England & /
Servants o / Dutch West India Co on / Coast o Africa
on / Years 1708, 1713, & 1728.

We observe th^t, in Sir Joseph York's letter,
a copy o wh^{ch} we received from yr Lordship, he mentions
a Treaty o / 16th o May 1716, wh^{ch} we apprehend to
be a mistake, & th^t he must mean th^e o / 16th May 1713, wh^{ch}
together wth those o 1708 & 1728, are / only ones relative to / dispute
concerning Portuguese Vessels tradg wth His Majesty's Subjects
& wh^{ch} are wth our knowledge o. We are - &c -
Whitehall
June 19. 1771

Ed Eliot
John Roberts
Wm Fitzherbert

"Bundle Qq. 37"
CO 388/58

"Bundle Dd."
147.

Trade

269 1771
June 19

To / Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg to Africa.

Gentlemen I am directed by / Lords Commissioners for
Trade & Plantations to desire yr attendance at the Lordships Board
on Friday next at 12 o clock at noon on / Subject o yr Secretaries
letter to me o 12th Instant & in / mean time I send yr by the
Lordships Order, for yr Informⁿ & Consideration, Copy o a Minute
o / Provisional Orders to be sent by / Directors o / Dutch West
India Co to / Director Gen^l & Council at St George Delmarina relative
to / Dispute concerning Portuguese Vessels tradg wth His
Majesty's Subjects, wh^{ch} Minute has bin by His Majesty's Command,
communicated to the Lordships by / Earl o Suffolk.

Whitehall
June 19. 1771

I am - &c -
J. Pownall

"Bundle Qq. 36.
Qq. 39."
CO 388/58

270

241. 1771 }
July 5.

To / Right Honorable / Earl of Suffolk, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State

My Lord. Hasg that it is our Duty to communicate to / Committee of Co
o Merchants' trading to Africa. & their Informan, / Minute o / provisions
Orders proposed to be sent by / Dutch West India Co to / Director
Gen & Council at St George Delatama, wh Minute was inclosed in yr
Lordships' letter to us o / 14th Instant [sic]. We h, in consequence
thereof, received fm them a Minute o the Opinion thereupon, a
Copy o wh Minute We hereunto transmit to yr Lordship, f yr
Informan. We are - 26-

Bundle
Qr. 37

Bundle
Qr. 40

CO 368/38

Whitehall
July 9 1771.

Ed. Elliot
John Roberts
Wm Fitzherbert

431. 1775
Oct 30th

Bundle
551.
CO 368/61

To / Kings most Excellent Majesty.
May it please yr Majesty

The Merchants o Liverpool trading to Africa hasg presented to us a Pet'n
Setting forth / Thatships To wh E Branch o Trade is subjected by Reason o
Regulation adopted in respect to / exportation o Gunpowder, Arms & Ammunition
as well f / Purpose o Trade as f / Use & Defence o the Ships & Boats, &
hasg deputed sever o Principal Merchants concerned in E Branch o
Commerce to lay before us what they had to offer on t Occas, we h
accordgly taken 1st Pet'n into Consideration & hasg bn attended by / Gentlemen
to whom / Pet'n refers, we beg leave to represent to yr Majesty,

432.

Gunpowder, Arms & Ammunition are essential & commanding Articles in /
African Trade: 1. / Quantity necessary f each Ship & worn f each Place o
Trade varies so much accordg to / Nature & Object o / Voyage & / State o Trade at diff't
Times as to make it impossible w^o manifest Prejudice to a Branch o Commerce already
llyg under many disadvantages to adopt any gen Rule, & t / same or similar
Reasons render it also inconvenient & in many Cases unpracticable to prescribe by
any gen Rule / Quantity o Cannon Arms & Ammunition necessary f / Use & Defence
o each Ship & her Boats, f wh Swivel Guns are always requisite this not included
in / gen Rule adopted by / Lords o Council

433.

These Considerations may it please yr Majesty appear to us to be of Weight
and we think t both Policy & Justice require t no Restrictions shd be put
upon this Trade wh are not essentially necessary f public Safety we humbly beg
leave to propose t each Ship cleary on h f / Coast o Africa f / Purpose o carrying
on / Trade f Slaves Ivory & Gold, may be allowed to take on Board as an
assorted Part o her Cargo, as much Gunpowder & as lye a Quantity o tradg
Guns, Pistols, Cutlasses, Flint, & Lead Balls, Bars & shot as / Exported sh think
necessary provided t Security be given to / principal Officers o / Customs o
Port in wh she is fitted out, before / Ship proceeds upon her Voyage in
434. trouble / Value o / Articles, so exported, t / same sh be expended in Trade upon /
Coast, & / Bond not to be cancelled until Proof o such Expenditures has bn
made by / Oath o / Captain or Master o / Ship or Vessel in like Manner
as is practised as regard to Spirits or East India Goods used in carrying on t
Trade.

W regard to what has bn suggested o / Difficulty & Disadvantage
attendg / Regulation concerng / Ordnance Arms & Ammunition to be taken
on board each Ship f her Use & Defence, we humbly beg leave to propose t
all Ships tradg to / Coast o Africa be allowed to take what Quantity o Carriage
Guns, Swivels, & small Arms sh be judged proper by / Master thereof
provided t in no Case no g^r Quantity be taken than twelue Carriage

5. Guns twelve Sautels toge w one Musquet, one Pair o Pistols or one Cutlass
f every Person o wh / Ships Co sh consist, a Ammunition in proporⁿ givg
Security to his back / Carriage Guns, Sautels, a Small Arms when /
Voyage is completed a to account upon Oath f / Expenditure o /
Ammunition.

which is most humbly submitted.

Whitehall
O. D. 30th 1775 }

Dartmouth
Bartholomew Fawcett
Whitehead Keene
C F Grenville

[End o CO 389/32]

note CO 388/33 contains nothing but reports to I.P.C.
re applications to report gun powder arms &
ammunition. This is nothing to note in this Vol.

F.

Trade

For 29 March 1709

To 13 March 1710

1709

December 19th

Answer to an Order
of House of Commons
relating to Trade to
Africa

To / Hon^{ble} / Commons of Gr. Brittain in
Parliament assembled

[Printed in Donnan II p 102 (Dns copy p 26), except /
following Memorandum at first -

"Memorandum
annexed to it, are only Copies of Originals: See Trade Boun: K 30 50, 54
The two acts marked A & B, mentioned in Pflagos answer, to be
Doi 412

442]

1710

February 15th

To / Queens most Excellent Majesty,
May it please yr Majesty

[Printed in Donnan II p 134. Doi 53. (Dns copy p 34)]

499]

1710

March / 5th

Order for /
House of Commons
of 29th of 1st
last month directed
this Board to lay before
the House the Objections
and Reports
they had made since
last Session re-
lating to Trade to
Africa.

Martes 27^o die Februarij 1710.

Ordered / Commons of Trade to lay before
this House the Objections & the Reports they
had made, since last Session of Parliament, relating
to Trade to Africa.

Paul Jodrell
Ck. Dom. Com.

Foot 1710

March / 6th

list of Papers
presented to House
of Commons relating
to Trade to Africa.

No list of Papers containing a Copy of Report or
Memorandum of Commons of Trade & Plantations, or of
Papers relating to Trade to Africa, since last Session of
Parliament.

1710

November 20th

December 3rd

Copy of an Act of Ten p Cent pd by Sept
Traders to / R. A. C.

Copy for / Duke of Queensberry

Trade
L. 54

(L. 63)

1710
December 12th

Letter for Duke of Queensberry ... [L 77]

Copy of a Petition of Royal African Co & other
creditors to her Majesty relating to Trade Indies L 78.

Copy of a Petition of several Planters & Inhabitants of
Barbadoes ... [Parliament R 94]

Copy letter for Sir Dalby Thomas ^{rows} to
R.A.C. dd Cabo Corso Castle 26 Nov 1709 ... L 80.

Copy letter for Mr Crabb ... Grenada ... 19 Mar
1709-10 ... L 81.

Copy of Scheme of R.A.C. ... } L 82.
Copy answer of Septe Traders to Queries ... } L 85.
dd 11 Decr 1710

Dec 20th

Copy acco Ships ... L 87.
Copy Testimonial of John Hays ... L 88.
" " Jacob Ruce ... L 89.

Dec 22d

Copy Reasons & arguments agst Septe Traders Scheme
Copy Reasons shewing necessity of speedy
settlement of Trade to Africa, as a Co. of Joint stock L 94.

Copy acct of debts due to R.A.C. in Plantations
... Disposition of Workmen transferred
... James's Corned in Tower (L 96, L 97)

1710 - N
Jan 3d

Copy of objections of Septe Traders to Scheme for R.A.C.
for an exclusive Co M 2.

5th

Copy Scheme of Septe Traders ... M 3.
Copy letter from Mr Rennie & copy Petition from
Planters ... of Jamaica to H.C. re Trade to Africa M 5.

29d

Copy answer of Septe Traders to Queries ... M 15.
Copy observations of Co re Three Queries sent by
Commons of Trade to Septe Traders M 16.

Copy Representation of R.A.C. beg abstract of
what they have formerly laid before Commons of Trade M 17.

Mar Feb 15th

Copy letter to Duke of Queensberry for Board's
Representation to Queen J. re. M 32.

March 6

Extracts of Minutes of Council in assembly
of Jamaica M 32.
Extract of Votes of H.C. re Trade to Africa M 33.

End of CO 389 / 21