

T. 40. 1514 contd

Endorsed "Thomas Melville th
Cape Coast Castle December 26 1751."

"Copy of a letter to / Committee by / Prince
Edward, Cap^t Douglas" [NB. The original is not
here.]

Cape Coast Castle 26 Dec 1751.

Gentlemen

My last was of / th 9. ultth by / Africa
o Liverpool Cap^t Richardson, a copy o wh^{ch} is
inclosed. I will see by / papers No 1 & No 2.
[not here] what has passed w / Dutch Gen.
I h^{ave} got all / Diverse Cabocuers here now
not w^{ith} all / opposin made by / Dutch, who,
when they found threats ineffectual, hd recourse
to promises. Mr Allgem / Dutch chief o Suc-
condes offered Badoe our Cabouer 30. 6 of
gold to use his interest to dissuade Acaimyah;
this was after they hd assured t young man t
I only wanted him to cut off his head.

I hope now to put an end to all our diffe-
s / Hamlahs & to make them our friends, I
dare observe / contrast betw Cape Coast
& their own Country, has a v^{ery} sensible affect
upon them, & shews them / folly o their beg
at war w us better than any arguments I can
use.

I believe they h^{ave} grievances to complain o
wh^{ich} I may expect to hear o by / next opp^{or}t.

• Short. n.c.

An unlucky oz. 8 gold extorted fm Bossu,
 Accaintah's predecessor by Mr Chalmer, has,
 I am afraid bn / o'can o' our spending about
 above 1000, but o' these things more in my
 next.

I h sent y no 3 / letters wh passed betw
 / Council here & / Dutch Gen concerning
 Commenda Landg Place; [no 3 not here] ?
 I hope t affairs will be settled soon, f
 tis a v'y gr grievance.

I h herewith no 4 Mr Slater's report o/
 repairs wantg at Succondee fort [n.c.]

I hope in / next years Supplies I h
 sent a lge quantity o' corn brandy; /
 want o' t makes our expences run v'y high;
 / Co's Plaves will thank y f it at 10 /- p.
 gallon on the pay. Send it all in Iron
 bound Casks, as I sh allow y / prime cost of
 all y send; but let them be better than those
 I brot on; f they were, v'y bad.

Two days ago arrived here a deputaⁿ
 fm Annamaboe, Agga, & Annishan, three
 towns situated v'y near each o^r; they sd. t
 50 years ago Capt House came ashore &
 measured / for at Annamaboe, t they heard
 t I hd brot on^t bricks & Tiles, as they
 understood, to build the fort, but hitherto
 they hd seen no steps towards it; t on / comg
 o' French men o' War on / Coast they hd
 taken English flags to hoist, to shew /

French & they belonged to us, & & they wd not
Suffer them to settle amng them; & our flags
were dry flags, as we gave them nothing to
drink, & therefore desired to know what we
wd give the Caboceros at Agga & Annisham
any pay, or if they shd send us back our
flags. They sd they hd another complaint,
but they wd not insist upon it, & it was
since / trade was laid open / ships chused
to stay here, by wh means the Corn & Yr
Yambs & Wood lay upon the hands, &
they were reduced to gr Straits. We told
them t we were vry willing to buy what they
hd got to sell; & we wd take up evy English
Ship t wd trade w us; but t when no
ships were upon / Coast we reckoned it a
gt advantage to them to h a market so
near them where, gently speaking, they
knew they cd grt what they wanted for
one or o^r, t as to hoistg / English flag, we wd
take it into consideraⁿ. In this last demand
I believe we must gratify them, & 4 Atlys to
p. month to Agga, & as much to Annisham
will satisfy them; & t 8 Atlys may be
paid in 4 gallons o Corn brandy; indeed
if we pay it in some o^r goods it will
amt to 14 or 18 Sh. but they seldom or
never refuse brandy.

Tho' I h bn as Savg as possible o yr
goods, yet they begin to grow vry low, when
recruits are sent here tis taken f granted t
many are to die, but we seem not to
be o t Sort, our Soldiers are as useless as

any Soldiers can be, yet they must have £24
p. ann. each, & t in / best goods. I hope I
will send no more o them, but agree to
what I proposed abt Slaves fm Gambia;
These wd be easily maintained, & wd be a
real addin to our Strength, whereas / o's
fm / effects o the Debauchery are only / Shadows
o men, & fm / badness o the Morals serve no
o purpose than showg / Negroes t we h
white men to / full as contemptible as them-
selves, & o as little estiman in / eyes o any
beg whate.

At Annamaboe, there is only 1 Ship Cap.
Haskins o Bristol. We offered him what Slaves
he wanted at once, & did not ask above 30/-
profit on each, wh, considering / with o Mortality,
is rather less than any man can live by, &
but as he was a Single Ship he sd he was
affraid his owners wd not think he did his
utmost f the interest unless he went to
Annamaboe. So we are obliged to ship off
our own Slaves to prevent their eatg off the
heads.

Since my last the passed 1 Frenchman who lay
a few days at Annamaboe, & then went away f
Whydah. I wish we had a Man o War constantly
on / Coast to keep away off these gentlemen.
The whole nam o Fantee Fantee acknowledge
in words t we are the Masters. I shd think
it no bad policy to h / English flag hoisted
at all / places o trade upon this coast; as t
wd give / Captains o his Majesty's ships a
power to drive / French away w beg
guilty o any act o Violence; f However Sanguine

those who are interested in / Trade may be;
however / people may talk who want to be
employed but know they h no publick
measure to answer f. I will never get a
prudent man, who is intimated w a Kings
Ship here, to drive away / French fr any
place where y h no mark o possession. If
ahys p. month paid us 2 gallons o Corn
brandy & a little buntien will go a long
way & give y as legal possession o any place
y want as if y build a Castle.

I see nothg wantg to render / Scheme of
Open Co compleat, but some legal power
to repress / outrages committed or wh may
be committed by white men; if a Negroe
injures us we can get him punished by /
laws o / Country; but when / Negro brings
a complaint agst a white Man I can
take no cognizance o it; & so they live togr
in a State o Nature, & I am affraid will
quarrel if there be no power to prevent it.

If I allow / Negroes to make a practice
o punishing white men, I then take off from
the Viceroy they h f us, wh has hitherto
bn / principal Support o our power.
Ther are sometimes a Dozen worthless
Sailors lying in / Town getting drunk &
abusing / Negroes; these fellows think
themselves above all law; if I restrain them,
I shd only get into / hands o some Wapping
Solicitor Solicitor, who in Guild hall wd
represent me as / gtest Tyrant & user

used; Such a picture wd be drawn & one
 wd be drawn, & an honest jury wd think
 they did good service to the country in
 doing me. So what / consequence be, as I have no
 legal power, so I will assume none; but
 represent to y / absolute necessity of ~~const~~
 constituting one.

The Blacks are so happy in / extensive
 priviledges they enjoy, & they will come to
 any agreement w us, we please; So if
 we are not properly secured 'tis our own
 fault, what is done in this affair must
 be done quickly, as Cudjoe Cabonnet is
 an old man; & if he shd dye before any
 thg is settled we mt meet w Diffculties. I
 am conversing w him what regulations are
 proper, & will lay them before y when y
 desire it. I am Gentlemen

Yr most Obedient & humble Servant
 Tm.

Cape Coast Castle

At a Council held on Sunday 29th Decr 1751

[Fisher. p 83]

Cape Coast Castle

At a Council held on Monday Dec. 30th 1751.

Present

Thomas Melvil Esq. President &c
William Hubbard Esq. &c
Thomas Boteler Esq. &c
Ebenzer Young Esq. &c

Accattaz & Bogo took Fetich to forgive
each or f all past offences, & to be good
friends f / future.

Billy Contah & Bogo Asscens returned
Fetichs reciprocally

Accainyah Acca & Bogo Asscens mutually
took Fetich to be faithful to / English
& friends to each or

Ando Cabocur o Atchumah declared f
his Father served / English; & he took
Fetich to be w^t likewise serve them
faithfully

Billy Contah & Quashie Anchora
took Fetich not to give Accainyah any
bad Council to alienate him from us
upon wh Accainyah was installed
Cabocur o Dixcove under a discharge
o / guns

Adjourned

Endorsed "Mr Melville Acct o Mr
 John Smallman Gardener's
 behaviour at Cape Coast Castle
 in September 1751. wth 3 letters
 consequent thereto o 2^d Oct 1751"

[inc. - Gardener was now a free trader
 living in CC town. He accused Melville
 of stealing 2 sheep, & paragoned
 a Co Slave in reprisal. A personal
 dispute. Some o^r pps.]

[End o T^{yo}. 1517]

T. 70. 1518 [Detached Papers 1752]

"Copies o my letters to / Committee o / Co
o Merchants Trade to Africa since Nov
5th 1751 when I wrote by Capt. Howe who,
in all Probability will be in England before
Capt. Buckle."

By Capt. Richardson o / Africa o Liverpool
Nov 9th 1751 [inc. Vide note p 581 supra]

By / Province Edward, Capt Douglas Dec^r 26 1751
[copied supra, p 581]

By Capt. Yarrant o / Hardman Snow o Liver-
pool
January 8 1751 [52]

In my last o / 26th Uto I acquainted y o /
Arrival o / Hamtah Caboceros, as well those
who were fighting agst us as those who were
in Discovery Fort durg / Dispute. By / Acts
o Council I will see t we be finally adjusted
all the Dif^s, & they are gone home highly
satisfied w the Recepⁿ. I believe they had
more Disputes wh Cudjo Cab^r made up. In
this Occaⁿ he spared neither Pains nor
Expence to make the comg here answer
/ Purpose intended by it.

Tho / Complaints exhibited by them agst
 each o^r were trifling yet / Animosities among them
 were gr^t. Acainyah a young Man just come
 to his Estate wh^{ch} consists o^f abt 3000 People,
 (a full half o^f Hantah Country) came
 down first. H^{ad} b^{een} at War w^{us}. In a few
 Days he was followed by Acah our linguist at
 Dixcove, & Bagoo Asseem Ground Landlord o^f
 / Fort ther^e. These two were on our Side & h^{ad}
 abt 200 People. Tho Acainyah was o^f most
 Consequence to us, yet I was obliged to shew /
 some Regard to / o^rs, as they were elder Men,
 o^rwise I had never reconciled them. Indeed, as
 it was I run a Risk o^f failg; f^r Gov^r: Roberts,
 who formerly was Chief o^f Dixcove, c^{ould} not help
 shewg^g his Inveteracy to Acainyah: he told
 Acah t^o Cudjo Cabb^{ot} & I were on t^{he} young Man's
 Side, but t^{hat} he wd be his friend. If he h^{ad}
 b^{een} lucky enough to h^{ave} gained Credit, we
 sh^{ould} once more h^{ave} had Dixcove Fort blocked up,
 & f^r ought I know, / Gov^r: m^{ight} h^{ave} come out
 time enough to h^{ave} gathered fresh Laurels in
 another Dixcove War. Cudjo represented /
 Absurdity o^f my be^{ing} supposed to favour one
 more than ano^{ther}, when my View was to es-
 tablish Peace, & I h^{ad} no personal Acquaintance
 w^{ith} any o^f them; t^{he} / Points he took to br^{ing} abt
 an Accommod^{ation} in Gov^r: Roberts' Time, was
 sufficient to wipe off any Aspersion wh^{ich} c^{ould} be
 thrown upon him. I took no f^{urther} notice o^f it
 than by tellg^g / Hantahs t^{he} / Duty o^f my
 Stat^{ion} required me [to] look upon myself as
 the common Father, & t^{hat} if any Man

represented me & wise, he must be an Enemy
to / Quick o / Coast. I advised them f /
Future never to meddle w white Men's
Quarrels, as it was only throwing away the
Money & risking the lives fighting w Muskets
agst Stone Walls. T / poor Dutch Chiefs,
who hd no Trade, desired no better Sport
than to sell them Guns & Gunpowder, & in
/ End, sell themselves f Paym^t. I desired
them to lay it down as a Maxim t
whoever / Man was, whether English or Dutch,
whether white or black, who advised them to go
to War upon any o Principle than self Defence
t Man must hit the Enemy. I told them not
to credit any Reports our Enemies m^t
raise abt our entering into Alliance w the
Enemy. I ntuffero King o Warsaw, in
order to destroy them; t I always wd
oppose any Measures, wh hd a tendency
t usay; t / national View in supporting these
Forts was to protect / Inhabitants under them,
who cd only be useful to us as they promoted
our Trade, & f t Purpose, Peace was
absolutely necessary, t now they were
admitted into all / Commercial Advantages
o Englishmen upon / Coast this Coast. I
expected / same lawful Obedience to the
Governor, thro Affecⁿ & Gratitude wh they
formerly shewed thro Fear. I proposed /
Labourers & People o Cape Coast as Patterns
f the Imitaⁿ, & ~~also~~ desired them to
remark / effects o Liberty here, t they m^t
make a proper Use o it when they went
to their own Country.

Thus as far as it relates to / negotiators . . .

marked out a line for the country [Fisher, p. 18/9]
 the service / present for a / discount / export-
 related goods / treaty, both as an in-
 ternational measure in regard to destroying /
 the world as a step with red ink

make them our workday / enemies, but

treacherous as powerful inland forces sound

high at home in some cases, therefore some

was recommended / offering to give his advice.

In one of my former letters I told you . . .

a / may venture to assure you they were more.

[Fisher, p. 19]. I do not blame Mr. Roberts

for his high ideas of British foreign policy.

but he said he considered his inability to

support them; he said he, upon his own

principles, reflected on such all such contacts,

whether in / right or / wrong, foreigners must

suffer, & in this case I will find a / great sum

to pay into / Bazarov. Indeed this is a / push

figure made us / D. & C. & I dare say

justice & moderation on our part will obtain us

much. Check on this, as we want.

By what I have said of the negotiators / from

no more than to establish / by what

may judge a / negotiator a / these who

may have the / / management of the affairs

are managed / But I am not certainly

acted a part with / / has not /

a / negotiator /

94 on the above 6 months, & he pre-

served / peace & they have not /

acted as a / men who play a /

purpose is / act a /

upon any Method within / Limits o the Capa-
city, to introduce Confusion, & think / Scheme
of open Trade is to answer all. Husbands &
Botlers, who are Mr. Roberts's Partners in Trade,
h fallen upon a Scheme wh must, one Day or o^r,
produce / Effect intended & it is this. They
h three Vessels upon / Coops^t manned by /
Cannaille o o^r Ships. When these Vessels
arrive here, / Sailors are discharged, & h^r Wages
paid them, w a View to take them
back agn as soon as they h drank the Money.
Now I defy any Man to fall upon a better
Plan to breed Disturbce. to send / most ~~ab-~~
andoned abandoned Men in / World into
a Town where there are now Laws to controul
them, is certainly an odd Behaviour in
those who h Salaries fm ^g, but it is /
Fact. They h already bn guilty o sev^l
Outrages wh mt already h produced bad
Effects, h it not bn f / Vigiles o Cudyo
Cobb^t. who sees as clearly into these Peoples
Designs as I do, & is as / solicitous to
render them abortive. When Gov^r. Roberts
goes, he takes these Vessels along w him,
so I hope we sh then be somewhat easier,
but f all t, Measures shd be fallen on
to preserve / Peace.

In Pursue o a Clause in my Instruc^{es},
I h given Mr. Roberts all / Assistance in my
Power to finish his Accts, & / People who
came out w me, as well as Mr. Botlers,
h bn employed abt them ever since my
Arrival. When Cap^t. Howe was here,
Roberts, Husbands & Botlers (f they take

no Help to t) were making Day- Books o the
 Transactions 12 Months before. On my coming
 here I paid them £1000, in Part o the Dis-
 bursemts before my Arrival, on / solemn
 Promise o the Partners & Boteler t I was to
 see the Accts when made out. But after
 they had got / Money they told me I had no
 business w the Accts. Indeed upon my
 finding fault w one Transacⁿ Boteler told
 me t they had no Accts, & I am informed by
 all / Negroes t Mr Roberts told them on his
 Arrival t / King had given him £10,000,
 f wh he had orders not to acct. He told
 me t he had taken out w y Article in the
 Accts wh he cd not swear related to /
 Publick. The mst h^{ch} bn a gr many o these
 Articles in, f on my coming here they had
 paid out 12 or ~~the~~ 14,000 more than Mr
 Roselle's Supply. now t Sum is fallen to
 8 or 9,000. However I sh soon be able to
 say more on this Subject.

When Roberts is gone I sh finish my
 Accts directly, in / mean time I take Receipts
 f every Piece o Goods I deliver, so t in
 Case o any Mans Death, I h not a Voucher
 to look f, wh wd be / Care if I trusted
 to Pay-Bills alone.

In this Road is Cap^t Haskins o Bristol
 bound f Jamaica w abt 300 Slaves, like-
 wise / Handman o Liverpool, Cap^t.

Yourself, f Jamaica who wants 40 Slaves
to complete; these She will get here. This
is also / Cape Coast o Bristol, Capt. Stow, he
wants abt 150 Slaves.

This morning I hear this is a French Snore
at Succowdee, wh she will stop anywhere on this
Coast I cannot tell, but as she wants only 30 or
40 Slaves, 'tis probable / Dutch Gen will
take her up. I am taking measures to h / Eng-
lish Flag hoisted at all / Places o Trade
on / Fanteem Coast, & then I can, w a good Face,
desire our Capt: o Men o War to drive /
French away. The Trade o this Coast is bad
but indif^{er}, but as / English R almost /
whole, I hope few bad Voyages will be
made this Year, on / contrary, if / Planters
are really in so gr Distress f as they sd
f Gold Coast Slaves, all / Ships wh h gone
fm This since I came must make
v successful Voyages, f I will venture
to affirm, th never were more o t Sort
sent off in so short a Time.

Since my Arrival I h seen no Reason
to alter my Sentiments abt this Trade, ev y
Man, white & black, except / Members o /
old Council, seem satisfied. Indeed these
Gentlemen see THGS in another Light. I
want o a better, they raised a Joint-Stock o
tho own, & allowed ev y Outchief one fourth o
/ Trade p his Fort. As they did not always
acc^t fairly even f t small Share, / Chiefs
by Way o Retaliation wd sometimes secret
tho best Slaves & sell them to / English
Long-Boats, & send up / worst to Cape

Contd on Acct of / Joint Stock, f / French.
 F this Practice. Gov^r Roberts, & his Council,
 turned out / present Chiefs of Winnabach &
 Tantianguerry, & so exasperated was he agst
 / former f his Sons agst / Joint Stock, t he
 ordered Mr Boteler to seize his Escu-
 tore, his Papers & his Money, & brg him
 & them to Cape Coast. Mr Wickers (his
 Man's Name) told Boteler t he was v^y
 ready to obey / Gov^r & give up his Charge, but
 t he hd 2 Pistols & wd shoot / first Man
 who attempted to touch his Escutore. Boteler
 did not like / Joint-Stock well enough to
 dye f it, so brot up Wickers, who after he
 hd withstood many Hints, t in former ~~two~~
 Times when Out Chiefs were turned out they
 were obliged to make Presents before they
 were restored, was sent back agn. All this
 was kept sleep'd as gt a Secret fm me, as
 / Gov^r & his Partners slaug off a French-
 man here abt 6 Weeks before my Arrival,
 & how consistent t was w his solemn
 Protestns in his Letters, let those say who
 received them & believed thir Contents, if
 any such thir were.

As we all keep our Health, / Supplies begin
 to grow v^y low. The Hantah Affair has
 cost some Money. I shd call it a gt deal only
 I speak comparatively. However t Expence, I
 hope, is at an End, f tho it did not cost them
 so much Money as it did us, y^t in t bloody
 War they hd 12 People killed Outright (as

they say) besides Wounded, so 'tis to be hoped they will not be fond o' renew'g it.

Goods in Demand. Deep blue Half Sings stitched. Red Bejula printed Linens, Cross baird Checks, 16/ Blackburn Checks
T. m.

By Cap^t. Stroud o / Cape Coast o Bristol
Janry 26th 1751.

My hope was by Cap^t. Youwar^t o / Hardman Snow o Liverpool, a Copy o wh went by Cap^t. Haspkins o Bristol. Inclosed are / Papers relatg to Mr Emerton. I am happy Man has given me gt Uneasiness. All Tyranny I detest in ord & therefore I shall allways look upon it as my peculiar Misfortune to be obliged to take any Step wh may h / Appear o Severity or Harshness. I wd go to / uttermost Verge o Humanity to alleviate Mr Emerton's Misfortune, but to forgive his Rashness wd be Weakness, & not be productive o vy bad Consequences.

Cap^t. James in a Brigantine w Runn fm Rhode Island, came down ab^t a Week ago. At Cape Mount he saw 3 French Men o War o 64, 50 & 12 Guns. The Commodore sent his Lieut. aboard him to buy Butter. James ask'd him if they intended to go down to / Gold Coast, but cd get no Answer. I sh do my

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utmost to prevent the getting any Fort
here, but shd be able to do more if there
was a Man o War upon / Coast, as I wd
give more Weight to any Measures I
m^t judge necessary.

Ammissa a Place 3 or 4 leagues below
Annamaboe is / Place I dread most, as it
is a v^y fine Situation for a Fort. I h ordered
Cudjo to send a Messenger to / Caboccur there,
to acquaint him t as he has not had a new
English Flag these ~~10~~ 30 Years, / last
must needs be worn; & therefore to desire
him to come here & get another, & I sh
allow him 4^{ac} p. mo^o for hoisting it. I
expect his Answer to Day or to morrow.

The whole Coast is now in a State of
perfect Tranquility, & I hope to keep it so. By
/ kind Treatment Accinyah met w here.
I believe him he is now thoroughly recon-
ciled to us, wh will destroy / Dutch Superi-
ority over us in / Hantah Country, &
consequently preserve / Peace there.

At Annamaboe are now 2 Rum men
fm Rhode Island & 2 Portuguese fm
Pernambuck. Cap^t Stroud o / Cape Coast
o Bristol, who carries this, came here abt
3 Weeks ago f 150 (170 it proved) Slaves,
he purchased abt 40 in this Road, & we
supplied him w / Remainder.

The Trade is but indiff^t, but as it is
not overdone, & / English h almost / whole.

I hope v^y few bad Voyages will be made
this Year.

I sh soon be looking out f a Supply. Our
Goods go fast away in Salaries, & I take
Care not to burthen y w much o^r Expences.

Goods in Demand. Red Bejute pants,
neganne pants, Cuttanees, Palma Chintz
or printed Linnens, Half Saye deep blue
stitched, green Long Ells, Gunpowder in
Dutch Cask, Dances & Dutch Guns, Black-
brown Checks. I am &c Tm.

By / Badger Sloop. Febr^y 20th 1752

By / Squadron o his Majesty's Ships
under Cap^t Buckle I was favoured wth you
o Aug^t 21 & Nov^r 13th.

I am quite uncertain whe this can
reach / Badger before She departs fm
Annamabot, I h no more time than to
tell y t / French Men o War are gone to
return agn in ten Months, to build a Fort
at t Place, unless we send out Force to pre-
vent them & likewise build ourselves.

By Cap^t Buckle I sh write y at lge. I am
glad / Principles o Moderam^{ty} to / Nations y
prescribe are / same I followed w Success.
Occonomy likewise I h studied but these
French h quite unhinged wth Th^y. I am &c
Tm.

By / Same Feby 20 1752

I wrote a few lines by / Badger this Morn^g not expecting they wd reach / Badger, but as She is still at Anchor, I hope to get this on board before She sails. The Promptitude w^{ch} / Gov^r has aided us, has prevented / French fm settling this Time, but the Brakes are so gr^t, & unless they are always keep'd off by M^{rs} o^r War they will, sooner or later, get what they want.

The Fantoms, I hear are v^y angry t^h I h^{av}e not given them Presents enough, but if I hd given them all / Gov^r's Supplies they wd h^{av}e bin as ready f^r / French Brandy. £8000 was / Sum^m M^{rs}'s² Salv^r offered, besides fill^g / whole Country drunk. I am really so concerned t^h I am not able to write f^r as I ot. I sh^d send Slater to draw a Plan & make an Estim^t o^f build^g a Fort, but as to / Expence o^f maintain^g it, I cannot even guess at t^h at present. f^r £50 at t^h place is not so much thot o^f as £5 wd h^{av}e bin three Months ago. The French will get one Th^g by th^r Exp^dion, wh^{ch} is spoil^g / Coast. I am inform^d t^h / Dutch Gov^r has used all his Interest to keep ~~out~~ / out / French. To Day I h^{av}e wrote him a letter o^f Thanks, & to propose to concert some Plan to^gth^r, when he sees we are so supported he will be glad o^f our Friendship. I wish I cd get / Dutch Co to give th^r Serv^{ts} Instructions

not to trade wth / French, as I w^d in some measure,
prevent the forming any Connecⁿ wth / Natives.
At present / Dutch are in utter Distress;
they h^{ve} nothing belongg to / Co, indeed we h^{ve} but
little but I hope soon to be supplied. Cap^t.
Buckle will sail soon, by him I sh^d be as
explicit as I can, probably this letter will
reach y^e before Cap^t. Howe arrives, & therefore
I must acquaint y^e t^{at} present / Coast is in
a State o^f perfect Tranquility (except what
French Brandy has produced at Annamaho^e).
/ Trade is not g^t, but / English h^{ve} 9/10
o^f what the has bin, & must infallibly h^{ve} /
whole unless / French get ~~the~~ Footg, or /
Dutch settle the Affairs on / some Plan ours
are. I h^{ve} had Difficulties to struggle wth wh^{ch},
none before me ever had, but I hope to
surmount them all. Gov^r. Roberts has de-
clared to some People t^{hat} he is g^og home
in Cap^t. Buckle, & has 1000 Th^{rs} ag^t
me to lay before Parliam^t. I sh^d never
suspect myself o^f being worthy o^f / Notice
o^f Parliam^t, but sh^d he accuse me, as indeed
he must to justify his own Measures, I ask
nothg but Justice. Let me not be condem-
ned on false Facts. Take y^e Accts o^f /
Service this Castle has bin o^f to our
Trade, fm / Day-Boats o^f English Ships,
& let / French say I ever sold them one
Slave. In 3 Months more Trade has
bin here than in as many Years o^f

/ old Cos Time Ery black man except /
Goldtakers o Annamaboe is happy, but
these People say if we trade we des-
troy the Business, & tho we buy the
Slaves; they are vry angry when we sell
them agn. Pardon my waitg thus at
Random. I am lookg vry Moment if /
Sloop be gone. I am hurried so is no
Fault o mine, but t sh be cleared up in
my next. I am re T M.

[London] Nov 5. 1752. Letter John Emerton
to T Committee o / African Co
Complains - a Factor in / Committee Service -
Complains o Mr Melvil this accomplices have
cruelly ~~tyrannized~~ tyrannized over him
b y months sent him to Barbadoes wth his
Consent -

London Nov 27. 1752 Letter Same to Same
asks b witnesses to be
heard on his behalf as to his conduct
at CCC. agst / hard treatment & scandalous
insinuations o Mr Melvil this party £40.12.6
(claim acct o claim o Emerton agst / Co less ~~for~~ goods used
£199.7.6 balce o 3 years salary due at £80 p.a.
a £30.7.6 wth o his passage fm Barbadoes
to London & lodgs & diet at Barbadoes

MS. The papers sent by Melvil to / Committee
abt Emerton, are not on this file

[Original, no endorse^{ment}]

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

Gentlemen

I wrote y two random letters by /
Badger Sloop on / 20th Ult^o. At six t morn^g
I received a letter fm Annamabor desiring me to
h my Dispatches on board by sloop, or prime
at furthest, tho at t Time I was not fully
informed o w^h t^hz, asg to / Muscarrage o a
letter o Mr Young's, wh, f Security, he trusted
to an Officer, belongg to one o his Majesty's
Ships, comg up here, this Gentleman forgot
to deliver it, & gave it back to Mr Young ~~at~~
his Return.

But tho I had got these letters in Time yet
I shd still h come far short o givg y
/ necessary Inform^{ation} as y may easily per-
ceive in / Course o this letter.

On / 26th January, by Cap^t Youwark o /
Hardman o Liverpool I advised y t thr
were three French Ships Men o War to
Wardward. When I got t Intelligence I
inquired o Mr Hubbands (who was here
alone at t Time) what Steps he took last
Year on / like Occaⁿ, & what Message he
sent to / Fanterens. As he was successful
I followed his Example; sent Brandy & Gun-
powder to Annamabor, Agga & Annisham;
acquainted / People o these Places t / French
were comg; desired them to drink / Liquor,
& keep / Gunpowder to defend them selves as
we did not know what Designs these Men
o War m^t h upon them. The People o
Annamabor sent me back Word t I had
allowed too little Brandy & Gunpowder f
them, & desired more as the Town was lge.

This Request I complied w directly, & hd thr
Thanks & Assurance t they were true Englishmen
& wd h nothing to say to / French.

I I m^t omit nothing to strengthen our
Interest amg / Fantees, at / Time I sent /
Brandy & Gunpowder to Annamaboe, I likewise
sent a fine Damask Cloth to / Braffoe, who
thanked me & sd t his Father knew / English &
Dutch but / French he was a Stranger to, intim-
atg. thereby t he wd oppose them as Intruders.

Immediately on this, Mons^r. Salvent came
down in a 60 Gun Ship w one o 50 Guns
along w him. They passed this Castle &
went directly to Annamaboe, Lewis
Bannishee, John Currantee's French Son,
went on board / Commodore & carried fm
thence a Man, who hd formerly bn at
Whydah, on shore w him. John Currantee
directly assigned this Person Lodggs in his
own House.

When John hd done this he sent me Word
t thr was a Frenchman come on shore thr
to buy Provins; t if he hd any o^r Business he
hd not yet disclosed it; t as soon as he did I
shd know it; t he was a true Englishman
& wd remain so.

As I did not chuse to rest my Inform^{ns}
wholly on John's Messages, I got Cudjo
Cabocier to dispatch trusty People on various
Pretences to Annamaboe. fm them as well
as fm some o^r Handy I learned t /
Frenchman was pourg amg / Inundaⁿ o
Brandy, not only amg / Annamaboe
People, but was likewise sendg rich

Presents, to / inland Cabb^{rs} & t John Cur-
rantee People were along w his Messengers.

At length John, findg t I must come to
/ Knowledge o his Practices sent me Word
t all Fantee except himself & his Family
were French; t he hd opposed them so
much t / Annamaboe People threatened
to turn him out o his Post o Captain if
he did not give Way to / Torment. This
confirmed me, if I hd needed any Con-
firmⁿ t John was at / Bottom o / whole Affair.

The Day after / French arrived at Annamaboe William Ansa, John's English Son,
wrote me a Letter wh I cd not v^y well under-
stand but gathered fm it t / French wanted
to settle if his Father & / People wd give
them Liberty. Two Days after he sent me
a Message by a Boy o 12 or 13 Years old
t / English need fear nothg while he was
at Annamaboe & / next Tidgs I hd o him
were fm one o John's Messengers who told
me he left him layg on his Bed sick, &
talkg o leavg Annamaboe, & comg up
here where he is a Writer at £60 p Ann^y.

I h^d Occasⁿ to see William since,
& ask him how he cd send me such a
Message t / English need fear nothg,
when he then knew, & now owned, t ev^y
Man in Fantee except himself (& why he
is not I h^d accounted ~~for~~ above) were f al-
lowg / French to settle. He sd, he did
not know his Father desired him to send
it. At t Time / French Brother was in

Fashion, f John's two Sons like Castor & Pollux are never seen in Splendour at / same Time.

After / Frenchman had thoroughly secured / Fantiens to grant liberty to build a Fort, a Day was fixed on f / Cabociers to go on board Mons^r. Salicet & sign an Agreement. On / Eve o t Day we desceyded / Squadron under / Command o Capt. Buckle, & next Day they came into this Road. Accordg to Custom I sent off / Doctor & Secretary to pay / Compliments o / Council to him & / o^r Captains. They returned in a little Time & acquainted me t Capt. Buckle expected me on board directly. I got ready immediately, tho Mr. Husband's advised me not to go, & was in / Canoe in less than 25 Minutes fm / Time Messrs Mackaile & Harmer signified Capt. Buckle's Pleasure to me. I only waited at / Waterside to dispatch a Messenger to John Currantie to let him know t three English Men o War were arriv'd here w Presents fm / King himself to him & / o Cabociers o Fantie, & t we expected two Men o War more, w y Day. I knew this must be / most effectual way o traversg / French Scheme. When I went off in / Canoe I began to consider how I sh'd get on board. My Hands were all over Blisters, & my Fingers swelled to such a Degree t I cd not grasp a Rope. I hd Thot o Talkg to Capt. Buckle out o his Gallery

Windows, but t appearing ridiculous I was resolved to trust to my Fear o drowning & scramble up / Side as well as I cd. I did so & bled one o my Hands, for wh was / sorest was tied round w a Handkerchief. After I ~~had~~ got upon / Gangway, I was busy gett^g on another Handkerchief to cover / bloody Hand, before I got upon / Quarter Deck where Cap^t Buckle was wait^g to receive me. This prevented my Saluting / Officers as I passed them, & I am told, affronted them all at / Time, or they not recollected it afterwards no matter wh. With Cap^t Buckle I went down to / Cabin where were Cap^ts Byron & Wheeler. I told them t / French had a Man on t shore Lawing away Brandy at Annamaboe; t he had got all / People on his Side, & wd certainly procure a Settlement unless his Arrival & distribut^g / King's Presents prevented it. On wh Cap^t Buckle asked, do y think t distribut^g / Presents will prevent it. I answered I hoped they wd, may I durst say / Men o War & they log^d wd prevent it. I told them t as t Day / Fantrens were ~~get~~ to go on board / French Commodore to sign an Agreement in Writg, but t his Arrival wd certainly put a Stop to t. He asked me what Steps I thot were best to be taken. I sd t was what I did not chuse to answer directly as it was an Affaire o Consequence I wanted to consult some o / Gentlemen on Shore, & likewise Cudjo Cabboceers who knew / Coast better than any o us. Cap^t Buckle

sd he supposed they must go down to Annamaboe. I answered t I believed it wd be proper to sail by next Sea Breeze, on wh he gave Orders to countermand / moving / Ships f wh he had made / Signal. I asked Capt Buckle if he wd go on shore t night. he sd they never lay out o the Ships ~~not~~ w^t an absolute Necessity but they wd come on Shore in / Morning. What Time, sd I. ? One sd at five, and^r replied t is too early, I proposed making it six, to wh they agreed.

This, accordg to / best o my Memory, in an Affair I never imagined I shd h^d had any Occasⁿ to recollect so partially, is / Substance o what pass'd on board / Assistance.

I got on shore a little before dark, & took a Turn into / Garden wth Mr Young. I proposed t he & Mr Husband's shd go down wth Capt Buckle, as / two Persons best acquainted wth / People there. to wh he sd, wth all my Heart. When we returned fm / Garden we met Mr Husband's, & told him what we had b^en talkg o. he answered as it is / first thg y^e h asked me to do f / Committee I cannot refuse it. Afterwards he told me he had some Disputes at Annamaboe, but I assured him he wd hear nothing o them as his Errand was to give away.

Next morning abt 7 / three Captains came on shore. I carried them up to my Lodggs & told them what we had agreed on, at wh Capt^r Buckle appeared v^y well satis^d satisfied. I asked him up here to turn up here after / Business o Annamaboe was ended. He sd they had Thots o go^g to Sonmarbah, but upon my sending my Request^r he sd he wd come up. fm / Castle / Captains went to Town & visited Cudjoe Capocce, fm thence we went to / Garden & staid there above an Hour & then returned to my Apartment till Messrs Young & Hubbards had pack'd up their business, as soon as it was done they went off all in good Humour.

I sent off some small Refreshments o a few Goats, Ducks & Fowls wh were accepted o, & by / Canoe Cap^r Wheeler sent on shore his division to be washed, & next Day Capt. Buckle sent me up his fm Annamaboe.

I only mention these little Part^s to show t / Disgust Capt. Buckle took at me must h^{ve} been upon Informⁿs he received after / 11th o February.

On / 12th Febr^y / three Captains, Messrs Hubbards & Young went on shore at Annamaboe & met / Fanteen. Gov^r Roberts set out fm this to be present. Our People asked why they sold over Ground to / French. They denied / Fact, sd, Annamaboe Ngia &

Amnigham was ours & we m^t take them when we pleased, but t^t they wd give / French some o^r Corner to build on. They then run on ag^t us in Gen^l f^r amusing them so long ab^t our Fort & do^g nothing. They accused her Husbands o^f sellg the Pawns wh they hd given him, & I was a bad man, bec I neglected to give them Liquor & Cloaths; t^t when they came here last Christmas I sent them home like a Parcel o^f Boys.

The Charge ag^t Husbands was unjust, & as to what relates to myself, I sh answer it by & by, & only observe t^t it put Gov^r Roberts into such Spirits t^t by a letter o^f his to Mr Boteler wrote t^t night, he says "by what was let fall in / Palaver (Conferred) to Day / Claim o^f Roberts, Husbands & Boteler is as good as / Bank, my Boy. So t^t if Parsimony in me is a Crime, Prodigality in them must be a Virtue. But tis / Providence o^r to judge o^f this Logic.

Merris Husbands & Young wrote y^e an Acct o^f the Proceedg^s fm Amnigham abo^e a Copy o^f wh is enclosed No 1. to it I refer.

While our Deputies were on shore at Amnigham I was tryg / Fan teens by another Quarter. I sent a Secret Messenger to the Priests offerg 20 oz to them to make the God declare in our Favour. But to my g^r mortification hd this Answer.

John Currantee has offered 02.60 to
speak f / French.

This step I have hinted to Cap^t Buckle
in my Letter No. 2. to wh he made no
Reply. I hd fm him a letter of some
Date No 3. wh I answered No 4, when to
my Mortification I hd his o / 15th, No 5.
wh I answered No 6. but he made no
Reply

I then began to see plainly t he was res ol-
ved to come to no settlement w me. Cap^t
Daniel in / Mean Time arrived, to him I told
my Story as far as I then knew. f what I
hd heard was, t he was offended at my
use o / Word Command. & t I hd sd he was /
labr Man o War. I ever wd go on board.
o. I apologised f / one, & went aboard Cap^t
Daniel to shew / o^r was false.

Fm Annamahoe Cap^t Buckle went w
his Maj's Ship under his Command to
Amisba, fm whence I hd / Ltr No. 7. in
Answer to I write No 8 to wh he replied
No 9

I then saw clearly t he was not rightly
informed o / State o Thgs w regard to John
Currantee, & in so small an Acquaintce I
saw / Risk I run o beg explicit, lth he shd
take / Advice o those o whose Judgm^t he has
a better Opinion, / certain Consequence o wh wch
h^{is} / communicatg / whole to John himself,
& makg him my declared Enemy.

On / o^r hand if any bad Consequence

insured for his place Confidence in John I certainly
 do not answer it, therefore I wrote No 10. where
 I do not lay myself open in regard to /
 Facts on wh^{ch} I ground my Asserⁿ.

I come now to / Fantee Charge agst me,
 if it can reasonably be called a Charge, I con-
 fess I h lived here 8 months in such a Situ-
 anⁿ as never man was in. Those whom y
 pay, I mean her husbands, under / absolute
 Gov^r Roberts, railg agst an open Trade & yet
 confessg t they enjoy / g^{re}at Share o it.

Assur^g both Blacks & Europeans t it is a
 foolish Scheme & will never answer. Tho all /
 Negroes under our Forts esteem it a truly
 generous Plan & what must, sooner or later,
 draw all / Inhabitants o Dutch Towns to us.

I came here trusted by y w / Gov^s
 Supplies. If I had given them away, I shd in-
 deed h got / Character o a good Man fm /
 Negroes, nay perhaps I shd h hd / g^{re}at Share
 o / Trade, but shd I not h barely betrayed
 / Trust reposed in me? Now it is, my

Parronymy is below / Dignity o / Man, then
 d wd h bn, Melvil has got / Publick Money
 into his Hands, he lavishes it away to get
 all / Trade to himself, when he has made
 his Fortune, he values neither / Trade nor /
 Committee one Farthg, so while I am thus
 joined in Council, / Envenomed Tongue
 o Malice will wth rail agst me.

But to come to / Fact. I was taught in
 England t John Curran was absolute
 Master at Annamaboe: this prevented / French

for settling last Year, in / Manner he was
 set to h done it, confirmed me in / Opinion. I
 thot to attach John was my Business, yet
 I never despised any o / rs.

See then what John & his Family h hd
 in 8 months by gone in Goods at Trade
 Price

Yr Cloth	at least	\$ 50:0:0
This Salary £24 P Ann.		16:0:0
Quasa (my Lord his Heir) / same		16:0:0
George Bannishree eldest Son		
Gold 48 P Ann: Trade £60:		40:0:0
William Ansa £60 = 90		60:0:00
besides o' small Presents		\$ 182:0:0
From us		

William Ansa & my Lord (con-
 siderg him as Capt. Douglass's
 Goldtaker & what Profits they
 h made from us by us at least.

to George Bannishree at Newmford 18:0:0 118:0:00
~~£~~ £ 300:0:0

This besides £40 paid f sendg away /
 Frenchman / o' Day. F the' Capt Buckle
 did it, yet we must allow John to think he
 has imposed upon us, & t we believe it was
 his Gratitude f / King's Presents, & f t we
 must shew our Gratitude by o' Presents.

As to / above Salaries I found them at my
 Arrival & h paid them regularly, besides them
 we pay £36 P Ann: to / Br affoe &
 Curramteers o' Fantees f Ground Rent &
 Water Custom f Annamaboe, Aga & Anishan:

likewise £12 p Ann: to Apah Co's mes-
senger at Annamaboe.

Now tho' it may not appear by yr Books
t John has hd gr Presents fm y. yet let any
Candid Man look at / Above Afect' wry Article
o wh I can make out & declare if John has
any Reason to complain. If I h hd one
message fm him since my Arrival, I h hd
twenty to this Effect. The Fantoms complain
t I eat all & they get nothing.

As to / or Complainr o / Goldtakers, (or
Linguists f Ships) they came up here last
Christmas. We heard o the comg f a long
Time before they arrived. They found t since
I came here, / English Ships found it
more Conduice to the Interest to do the
Business here than at Annamaboe, where
/ Customs & Charges run high, by wh
means they were thrown idle. Cudjo Cab^r
acquainted me t they were at his House, on
wh I sent f Mrs. Husband & asked his
Opinion. he told me not to hear them, f if I
gave any Countence to such Insolce th^r was no
telly where it wd end. On this Cudjo ad-
vised them to change the Story wh they did
accordg to what I advised f Dec^r 26th.
What they asked f having our Flag I granted.
After I hd heard them, I gave them a wicker
Bottle o Brandy neat. They went to Mrs
Young who gave them another out o our Stock,
wh made them call him a good Man.

I h seen sev^l o them since Capt. Byckle
was at Annamaboe & asked them why
they abused me. The Answer was, Master was

we must say something, we eat Frenchmen's
Goods, we eat fr Goods, Billy (Husbands)
a her young gave us liquor enough, we can
say nothing to them. I asked them if they did
not know t / Co paid f / liquor, they sd
they did not care who payed f it, they had it.

During this late Affair of French at
Mamamaboe, there was one thing which made a
gr Impression on me, & must necessarily
strike y in reading this letter. I mean /
Behaviours of John Currantee.

In my first letter dated July 11th 1751
was this Paragraph. "A few Months ago,
" / French sent two Men o War
" attempt any more Mamamaboe Expeditions
" in a Hurry " [Vide p. Supra].

On reading this I may v^y reasonably be
asked, if y^e behaved to J. Currantee as
y represent, why this Alteration? why
was he so much an Englishman last Year
a so much a Frenchman this?

v^y lately I was reflecting upon this
Subject in my Room when in came Cudjo
Cabbocce as a Councillor o Mamamaboe, &
one o J. Currantee's Household Servants
Wantg more Parents. I considered t many
Falshoods had b^en published since my Arrival
a t it was not impossible but this m^t be am^g
/ Numbers. I desired Cudjo to ask if / French
came to build a Fort last Year? They
answered no. Did not John call / Town
when / Frenchman went on shore? No.
Did not John tell him he sh^d not settle

got a letter from our King? no.
 Upon this Cudjo Cab^r held up his Hands.
 he sd he was up at Succondée at / Time
 heard / Story thr, & took it f granted ever
 since.

I then drop'd / Subject & sent away John's
 People. I sd to Cudjo, I desire y will get at /
 Bottom o this Story, & I may make use o yr
 Name in relatg it to / Comm^{rs} to whom y
 must be answerable f / Truth or Fals hood
 o it, so beware o deceivg them. f yr Repu-
 tation is at Stake as I depend on y, but let it
 be conducted ~~in~~ Secrecy, or wise. Thus bands
 will acquaint John t we are spoilg his
 Name in England.

Mar 13 02. o Goods sent to Annamaboe,
 thr were 4 oz wh John did not like. I desired
 his People to tell him to send what Goods he
 did not chuse, back agn, & I wd change
 them. To this he answered, we cannot
 give any Thg back, so I was obliged to
 give 4 oz more. Cudjo employed / Anna-
 maboe Councillor above mentioned to carry
 these Goods. As Presents alwise put John
 into good Humour, he ventured to ask
 / Story o / French last Year, wh is as
 follows, as it was interpreted to me by
 Cudjo Cabocier after I hd given him /
 about Charge, & told him likewise how
 much / Committee wd ~~feel~~ thank themselves
 obliged to him, in givg them Intelligence wh
 cd be depended on.

The Story itself is now fm / Months o
John himself, & my lord, who, as they were
/ only Actors, & did not know what use was
to be made o this Informa^{ns} must be sup-
posed to speak Truth

In / Year 174 [sic] The French sent
to Annamaboe one Monsieur La Court
in order to make a Settlement there. This
Man brot out w him a Son o Johns
educated in France. He was v^y well received
by John. He called / Braffor & all Fantee
& acquainted them w his Intenⁿ to settle
among them. They granted him Ground to
build on in Consideraⁿ o / Sum o 100
Bendys (a Bandy is £8) in Hand, & a fur^r
Sum to be paid after / Fort shd be finished.
O / 100 he paid 40. After t his Cook set fire
to a House & / Flammes spreadg sent d^{ns}
were consumed, to make up w^r Damage
he was sentenced, to pay 100 Bendies more.
& o t Sum he likewise paid 40. During /
War one o our Men o War cannonaded
Annamaboe in order to oblige / Inhabitants
to give him up but to no Purpose. Afterwards
when John went to fight Anguina, Coffee
Yango took / Opp^y to seize La Court; beat
him, tyed him, & wds go^g to send him
on board one o our Men o War, but she was
under Sail & not knowing what was do^g on
Shore, went away w^t him. After this John
came home, & happening to quarrel w La Court

abt some private Affair, / Town's People were
 affraid t' one o them wd kill / d^r, to present
 wh they broke into La Court's Room, thro his
 Window, in / Night, took him out & carried
 him on board a Dutch Ship in / Road. The
 Dutchman let him come on board but wd
 not keep him. On t' Mr La Court refused
 to go on shore any more at Annamaboe. Mr
 Creighton Creighton sent a Canoe f' him &
 brot him up here a Prisoner at his own
 Desire, & afterwards sent him to Whydah.

In Febr'y 1750, News was brot t' 2 French
 Men o War were to Windward. On wh
 Cudjo Cabreen who was then at Succondee w
 Mrs Roberts advised him to send down
 Quassa (John's Steir) who hd gone up thr to
 meet Cap^t Beard [Baird] & William Ansah.
 Accordgly he came to Cape Coast, & went w
 / Messengers whom Mr Husband's sent
 to Annamaboe, Ngaa, & Anisham w three
 Flags & some Liquor & told t' / French were
 comg down he did not know on what Design,
 but desired them to drink / Liquor & defend
 themselves w / Gunpowder. Soon after, / French
 Men o War arrived at Annamaboe. Fm
 / Time they were first heard o, / Negroes
 took it f' granted t' La Court was on board,
 & was come to make Reprisals f' / bad usage
 he hd met w at Annamaboe. They likewise
 imagined t' / French King hd sent these
 two Ships to catch Fantoms to make up f

/ Damage his Merchants had sustained by /
bad Gold they had taken.

These Reasons Guards were placed along /
Shore at Annamaboe, & not above one Canoe
or two at / most suffered to go on board at
" * Only John a Time * However after some
French Son Days John sent Quassah on
Once": board to know what they wanted.

On this / Commodore sent an Officer on Shore to,
Compliment John in Return. He went to John's
House & told him, we hear in France t /
English, he got all / Men, Women & Children,
all / Sheep, Goats & Fowls in Fantee. John
answered we serve / English, but we are free they
never payed any shg on our Heads. Then /
Frenchman told him t his Master wanted to
build a Fort at Annamaboe. John answered,
t t Place belonged to / English, so if they
wanted to build they must agree w them;
t when Mon^r da Court was t^r our Men
o War fired upon / Town & bred Disturbce,
but t t^r was Gravel enough f them both.
On this / French man sd, well, we will come,
Some Time or o^r, to wh John made no Answer.

John & Quassah both declared t they knew
o no Materials f buildg on board / French-
men o War last Year, nor did / Officer ever
once hint to them t / Design o these
Men o War was to build.

Capt^r Beard [Boird] must h had his
Aunts o what pass'd at Annamaboe,
when he was layg 15 leagues to Wind-
ward, & what was wrote home by Gov^r
Robert's upon / Subject I know not, as he

was contrary to all Practice & to his Duty,
 carried off every publick Letter wrote in his
 Time. These are not / property of Author, but
 Records belongg to his Masters, & to be left
 f / Benefit o his Successors. This may
 often render it impossible f me to prove Facts
 as in / present Case, but then it will pre-
 vent Deceits.

However takg / Acc^t o John's behaviour
 last Year as it was related by me to y on
 Hearsay it will neither answer to what he
 did before / French arriv'd nor to what he
 has done since he received his Maj's Presents
 by Cap^t. Buckle.

As to his Behaviour before / Arrival o /
 French last Year John Clifton now Sur-
 veyor in this Castle will make Oath, may
 insists upon makg Oath, t he received a
 Letter fm Mr Hubbards* dated June 15th
 1750 acquaintg him t / Yawl or Boat
 " * Mr Hubbds belongg to Mrs La Place
 Letter no 11." a French Ship at t Time in
 Contract w this Castle proke
 fm / Store & drove ashore at Annamaboe,
 t John & / o^r Cabours asked 90^l. before
 they wd give her back; t Mr Hubbards
 desired Clifton t She shd be look'd on as
 thrs (i.e. / Cos) & t they shd restore her
 f a little liquor. This threw John into
 such a Fury t he brot his Papers to

Clifton to look out his note at Co's
Cabocier, & after he had found it he sent
Quassah up with it to Cape Coast to return
it. After that he wanted to pull Clifton
on a bed & send him here likewise &
he must get a French man ashore from one
of Ships in Cormantine Road.

What has happened since Capt.
Buckle gave him / King's Presents
is his giving Mons^r Salvert one of his
own Sons a Pawn, in consequence of his
Engagements to give / French a Settlement.
He had Address enough to make our
People at Annamaboe believe that Boy
was only his Slave, but tho' he had
Cunning, he forgot to caution his house-
hold Servants not to tell his secrets.
They assure ~~Capt~~ Cabocier Cudjo & me
that Boy is really his Son, upon telling
Mr Clifton / Boy's Name he knew
him directly, having had him as a Servant
when at Annamaboe.

All these Things are very consistent wth
John's Behaviour of many Years past, however
he may be misrepresented. If he says he
serves / English he wants them to build the
Fort & he will find or reward of / French
whale Goods mix'd very well wth ours, for
Truth & this they artfully appealed to our
Husbands at / Conference.

I shall only add one Thing more on this

Subject: For / Comg o / French this Year they certainly understood t they had procured John's consent / last. If he had turned them away in / manner I wrote they never wd h be so foolish as to attempt / same thg over agn so soon. If / Facility o the settlg was owing to my having used / Fantoms so ill, how came they to know t in Europe. If I was bribed, f every t had been thrown out, how did / People in France know t / English had sent such a Person. In short, Gentlemen, turn it w / way, y will find John's Behaviour last year was misrepresented.

After having sd this I must now give y my Sentiments upon / French settlg at Annamaboe or any where near it. Wherever they go Annamaboe will follow. The Interest, for Inclination will eternally be to do us all / mischief possible. They will f ever be hiring / Fantoms to quarrel w / People under our Forts till they destroy them, turn / Channel o Trade to themselves & oblige us to leave / Coast. These are not Conjectures, they are / necessary Consequences o certain Principles.

How our buildg o Fort at Annamaboe will prevent the gettg a Settlement w / Gun-shot o t Place, I confess I cannot see. The Fantoms declare t unless we keep off / French by our Men o War, they will be there, & give this Reason, t / more Europeans they h to trade w / better f the Country. But, say they, we h [not] got Ships to brig them. & if y keep them away, we cannot help it.

9] Our Right to Annamaboe, Igba & Annishan
is clear. The Fantees were told / French this
Year t they cd not dispose o these Places, bec
they were ours, but they wd look out f o^r
Ground f them, in Pursue o the Contract w
La Court. However I h sent y some Letters
fm French Capt^s No 12. cravg leave o / Council
here to trade at Annamaboe: This is like-
wise a Paper o La Court's acknowledg^g our
Right to t Place, but as it was wrote when
he was a Prisoner here, it must rather hurt us
than do our Cause any Good. f wh Reason I
h not sent it.

This is another Right wh we h to / whole
Fantee Coast, & t (besides / Inhabitants
always own^g / Ground to be ours)
is / Necessity we are under to keep it out
o / Hands o / French. Tho' / Trade o /
Gold Coast ~~is~~ is, by itself, Valuable to /
nan, but it becomes infinitely more so
when it is considered as connected w /
Windward. If ever / French get Fort^g
any where on / Fantee Coast, they never
will rest till they h ~~down~~ drive us off,
& in t Case / Trade fm Sierra-Leone to /
Riv^r Volta will soon be thrs: bec they
the Ships hav^g / Gold Coast Trade se-
cure, & an equal Chance to us as to
Windward must make good Voyages,
Whereas if our Trade is to End at
Dissolve, the will not be one Ship in
ten but must carry off a Part o her
Cargo to / West Indies. So tak^g /
Affair in this light, wh is / true one,
it is o / last Consequence, & well deserves

t Altermⁿ is Gratitude I speak it, wh / Gov
gives to it, & wh alone has saved us.

Here let me repeat what I h sd on ano^r
Occaⁿ. t in all Disputes w Europeans on this Coast
Men o / War only can do / Business easily & effectu-
ally. But t is more partly true in this Affair
where / Proposers o / French are more calculated
t / Interest o / Natives than ours. They tell /
Fanteens, we do not want to hinder / English fm
tradg w y as y are a free People, we want t y
shd h evy Means o acquiring Riches. When /
French talk so, they know y will t where they
are firmly established, & h got / Fanteens thor-
oughly in the Interest, wh the Brandy wh
soon prg abt he must be / happiest Englishman
who first gets first away.

When I h [said?] this, I need not tell y
t it is not in my Power, nor will it were be
in / Power o any Man in my Place, to prevent
/ French fm settl^g unless he cd carry Cape
Coast Castle upon his Back. A few Days ago
one o / principal Cabocers in Annamahoe
frankly owned to me, t if I wd give / Fanteens
/ whole Supplies y are send^g out they wd in
a Week's Time be as ready to take Money fm
/ French. And how shd it be o'wise? The
Nature o / Trade excludes what we call Affecⁿ.
The Negroes know t we wd buy evy one o
them if we cd sell them agn, & reckon it as
fair Trade to sell our Interests as we do to
sell the Persons.

If the are not now, the soon will be.
Persons in England who will preach up a
Contrary Doctrine, some o them will under-
take any Th^g when / Gov is to bear /

Expence, but depend upon it such Men wd
succeed no better here than Gov^t Roberts in
his Plans f conquering / Hamahs. After
money intrusted to them was squandered
away they wd fall upon exclaiming agst /
Gov^t f not grantg as much as the Chim-
erical Projects required, w^t w^d once re-
flectg t they had made an injudicious use o
what they had

After what has pass'd / buildg o
Annamboc is become a necessary measure,
I h got a Plan & Estimate o / Materials
wanted f it No 13. what we sh do f Brick-
layers I know not havg only 8 who can
work. Three are at Discone employed Mr.
Succondoe is fallg, Commenda is down
already, a Plan o wh in its present State, &
an Estimate is inclosed No 14. / same o
Commenda [sic]

Before I conclude / Subject o Annama-
boc I must acquaint y o Keepg what I h
sd abt John Curran as secret as pos-
sible. F if some People who are go-
home at this Time get / least hint o it,
back it comes upon / Coast directly. And
we h still one Member in our Council t
prays feruently f yr Dissoln. To h
him know t we are no Strangers to
his Practices when perhaps we may h
white Men employed at Annamboc
may be attended w fatal Consequences

Since writg / above I h received fm Cap^t
Buckle a letter No 15 wh I h answered
No 16.

The Dutch are still attemptg to breed fresh Disturbances at Atchumach, & by t means intend to retard / Buildg o Discove Town. The Cabocier tho insists upon it t he will h nothing to do w / Dutch, & says t we must either defend him or give him leave to defend himself, wh will big on fresh Disturbances. Mr Young went up th w Capt Daniel in order to examine into / Affair upon / Spot. I sh use my utmost Efforts to compromise / Dispute amicably w Capt Daniels' Assistee & I must wait to hear o / Event by my next.

We h this Day wrote to Mr Husband's
 [at Amisba, a copy o wh is inclosed No 14. The carryg off Publick Records wh were intrusted to him to make out Vouchers f his Claims, wd never h entered into / Head o any Man less determined to do all / Mischiefs in his Power. He hd a Writer allowed him to copy what he wanted, & promised to leave us what we hd Occasn f. But he has taken Advantage o / Hurry I h bin lately, to carry them away, & if they shd help him to get his Money who is to make up / Damages y may sustain by / want o them? I protested Coppies wd h answered his Purpos. Not but t I sh be able to establish our Right to Atchumach w^t them, but no Thanks to him f t. Indeed I may want them f or Matters wh, at present, I do not foresee.

Accordg to yr Orders, I gave Messrs
Roberts, ~~Boteler~~ Husbands & Boteler, all
possible Assistce in finishg the Accts.
Mr Boteler, always told me t as soon as they
hd done, he wd begin & dispatch mine
directly, But when he has taken yr Pay f dog
his own Works, & was to h done something f
it, he wrote / Council a letter no 18. As
he hd served / Co beyond / Time the Servants
contract f, we cd not refuse his dischargg
him.

[personnel]

Mr Emerton's Story I will h inclosed
no 19.

[personnel]

I desire to know what Presents are
proper to be sent out f / Caboceros here.
The proper Ones are Scarlet & blue
broad Cloth, Hats laced w Gold &
Silver & Feathers, some Damask.

O / fine Cloth I brot out I gave one to
John Curranter, one to Ludjo Cabocero, &
ano^r to Intufiro King o Warsaw, & two
I h still, not havg a proper Oppy o dis-
posg o them. The blue Velvet w Silver
lace was / most valued, therefore it lays
f / King o Ashantee when I can get it
sent, but t probably will not be in a
Hurry. They were esteemed vy fine
Cloth wh made it difficult to dispose o
them so as to make Friends & no
Enemies, f / Caboceros are vy jealous o
each o^r

I must once more recommend to y /
gettg Gambia Slaves f d^rwise we sh
never get those Forts we h repaired,

nor Annamaboe built

Besides / Stores of send out of buildg y must send out an immense Quantity of Corn Brandy. & wth we sh^d h^{ve} no Assist^{ce} fm / Friends, f^r whom I sent down / Supervisor to draw / Plan I hd a Message fm John Curranter directly, desiring me to send down Brandy to give away to / People assisting him, but as I sent down two Cos Slaves along wth him, I thanked John f^r his Care, & told him t^h what was necessary at present c^d be done wth any Assist^{ce}.

This is another Thg wh I beg leave to refer to yr Consideration & it is this, Suppose any Ship comg out here wth Supplies sh^d be lost, what a Condition ~~Fort~~ m^t / Forts be in before y heard o it & sent another. If these Supplies depended on / Insurers to make good we ~~in m^t be?~~ ~~reduced to utter~~

we m^t be reduced to utter Distress f^r want o them, so I hope / Gov will allow us some Goods always to be here to prevent / bad Consequences o any such Accidents, This is / Objectⁿ o Cudjoe's Letter to / new Scheme, & indeed it is a v^y sensible One, but it is easily removed.

I beg leave to conclude this long Letter by assuring y t^h in what^r Complaints are gone home agst me, I desire only Justice. F was I to go to Eternity next Moment I sh^d never think o askg Pardon o God Almighty f^r any Intentional Sins committed agst y since

my Arrival here. Oth indeed may serve y^e
is more Ability, but none ever care wth more
Regard to y^r Interest than

Gentlemen
Y^r most obed^t & obliged hum^l Serv^t
Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast March 14. 1752

P.S. I must intreat y^e to fall on some
Method to let us h^{ave} our Limits wth Dutch
settled.

" Estimate of Annamaboe Fort March y^e 25th 1752 "

(sgd) Joⁿ Slater
To Thomas Melvil Esqr.

no 14) " A Plan of Commenda Fort, wth a View
of Ruins facg / Dutch Fort "

[To be photod.]

" Repairs wantg att Commenda Fort "

(sgd) John Slater
February y^e 4th 1751/2
To Thomas Melvil Esqr.

" Repairs wantg at Vernons Fort Prampram
May / 22nd 1752 "

(sgd) John Slater
" I h^{ave} sent / Plan of Prampram wth this [not here]
To Thomas Melvil Esqr "

Copies o Reports by J Slater on repairs required at;
 Tatumquerry Fort April 14th 1752.
 Winniebah " " 22^d 1752
 Mura " May 5th 1752

N.B. None o / of Enclosures to / above
 letter are here

Endorsed "Mr Melvils letter
 Dated / 11th June 1752."

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

On / 14th o March last I wrote y
 a v^y long letter by Cap^t Buckle o his Maj^s
 Ship Assistance, & on / 15th ulto a v^y short one
 fm Annamaboe by Cap^t Daniel [no. 1]

I am now to acknowledg / Receipt o y^rs o
 / 15th & 18th Feby by / Business o Sales Cap^t
 Robert Subber.

As to / Affairs o Success I h^{ve} writ (no. 1)
 what letters, h^{ve} passed concerning them, by wh^{ch}
 y^r will perceiv^e w^hat Contempt / Dutch Gen^{ls}
 treats Cap^t Daniel by plainly telling him t^h he
 has no Business wth our Disputes.

Accordg to y^r Orders I went to Annama-
 boe & presented John Currantee wth y^r Sword.
 Cap^t Daniel, our Young & Cap^t Alex^d Graham
 o Bristol went on shore wth me. John looked
 at / Sword & then gave it to his Son George

Barneshee. He told us he was v^y sick (f^r no
Body dare hint t^h he ~~is~~ old) & t^h upon t^h Acct /
Boys, so he calls every one at Annamaboe, were
given v^y saucy. What we told him he
seem'd to forget almost as soon as he spoke it.
He sat wth us half an Hour & then left us,
sent f^r / Sword to examine it more at
Leisure, & I was inform'd t^h it met wth his
Approachⁿ. After Dinner Cap^t. Daniel wanted
to go on board his Ship, so we went to
John's Apart^{mt} to know if he had any
Commands, he desired / Cap^t. to tell / thing
to be good to / Families. After this we
found all / Town Cabb^{es} assembled &
on askg them if they had any Thg to say,
they answered t^h they must consult John
before they spoke, accordg^{ly} they went
to him & returned in a little. They then
began a long Speech abt^t / French & English
beg white Men; t^h they wanted to trade wth
all white Men. As / End o this Discourse
fm / Tendency o what they sd, wd h^{ve} b^{een}
Complaints agst Cap^t. Daniel & me f^r
his dring away / French at my Desire,
& as / Cap^t. seem'd uneasy & wanted v^y
much to be off, we got up, & told them t^h
/ English allways were, & allways wd be
Friends to / Families. John was im-
mediately inform'd at what had pass'd
& as / Messengers had misconstrued
Cap^t. Daniels Anxiety to be on board

to his beg affronted, John sent to tell us t
 what / Boys he spoke was wth Authority fm
 him, w^{ch} we all pretended to believe. After
 Cap^t Daniel went off Mr Young & I went
 round all / Town attended by all / Cabovers
 & returned to John's House where I intended
 to give them as much Brandy as they cd
 swallow, & accordgly set them all a darning.
 I then left them f ten minutes to shift myself,
 & when I returned they were to my gr surprise
 all gone home. I sent f two or three o
 most considerable & was informed o what
 I before suspected t they went away f want
 o Drink, but I cd not help myself, if I spoke
 I disoblged John's Sons, so I dissembled
 as well as I cd, beg determined to clear up /
 Matter to / Cabbrs at a more convenient
 Opp^t. Since t I h done it, The Cabbrs
 told me, we saw three half Hog^s carried to
 John's House, so we did not blame y, bec we
 knew y were cheated. I informed them
 t William & Quassah desired to h / Brandy
 put into th^r custody, as they sd they knew
 best how to distribute it, accordgly it was
 so; they told me t they hd given it all
 away & reserved none f John so t I was
 obliged to send 33 Gall: more to him
 after my Return to Cape Coast. I told them
 t I hd allowed William to give one
 Flask Brandy w^y Sunday to / Cab-
 bovers; t he hd given ~~me~~ me in /

Acc^t o^t wherein he had charged Two Flasks.
They sd they did not doubt his having
given me / Acc^t, but t he had never given
them one Drop. The Man who spoke
this was / Person John intends f his suc-
cessor as Cap^t o^t Annamaboe, upon this
I went a little fur^r & told them t William
acquainted me he had given away 100
Gall: o^t Rum while / French were at
Annamaboe, they sd they cd not con-
ceive to whom, f they were / prosper
Persons to dash in on t Occasⁿ &
they had none for him. I then told
them t in thr Town thr was only one
Tongue t cd speak & t as I only
heard t I was to act as it desired.
they replied, it is sy true, now we know
how Thgs are we do not blame y as
y cannot do o^rwise ~~at~~ w^t offend I
John who gets it all.

I hope I will excuse my beg so part²
as I intend to shew y / Characters o^t those I h
to deal w^t. Tho' I am open w^t y, yet here I
dissemble all, neither William nor Quassah
imagine t I h / least Suspiciⁿ o^t thr Practis^e.

As John begins to think himself not far from
/ Grave it behoves us to get him a Successor
who is in our Interest. By / Custom o^t /
Country George Bannister his eldest Son
or to succeed as Captain, but w^t our Aid
he will not be able to bear / Expence. As

this Lad went to England v^y early, & stayed thr
 & on board an English Ship 8 or 9 years & has
 ever since he came home behaved to / Satisfacⁿ
 o his Masters. he is / Man we st to support,
 & if John dies before 1 h yr Orders, I will
 make him Capt & trust to yr Approbaⁿ, f
 unless I interfere t Place will fall into /
 Hands o a Man who is not inclined to do
 us any Service. Mr Creighton made George
 Bannishree Cos Messenger 9 w^k years ago at
 a Salary o £48, & he has continued in t
 Place ever since.

When I say I will make George Bannishree
 Capt o Annamaboe, do not imagine t I fancy
 I h personal Interest am I ~~these~~ these people,
 it must bee done by yr Brandy; f while I
 solicit Capts o Men o War to drive away /
 French, I sh ever be unpopular at Annama-
 boe, & when I cease to do t, I sh be an un-
 faithful Servant to y.

As to my Reason^s ag^t / Propriety o build^g
 a Fort at Annamaboe it was built upon a
~~Propose~~ Supposiⁿ t / French were to make
 no more Attempts, but as / One has not
 held true / & cannot take Place. I hope
 after / Assurance wh Capt Buckle was authorised
 to give t a Fort shd be built this Year, thr is
 Money allotted f t Purpose, or w^{ise} I do not
 know what Apology to make, as / People
 will never after believe a Word we say.

William Ansaah sends y a letter o Thanks,
 wh those who are acquainted w / Coast will
 laugh at. Mr Roberts used to write his letters

f him, & get him to copy them, but by / Two
o this, it will appear, t t Gentlemen had no
Hand in it. I do not chuse to write what I think
o such Acts, wth myself never use them to de-
ceive, but they are v^y lawful when they tend
to undeceive.

The Factors & Writers left / Table at / Be-
ginning o this Month. To write / all Truth
ab^t / Table is what I cannot br^g myself to
do, only must inform y that this Year's Salary
& Allowance in all Probability will sink into it,
& how to cure it I know not w^t making /
publick Service suffer. My Predecessors in-
deed made part^r Charges as y will see by
the Accts, but t is a Method I am not v^y
fond o, & wd rather lose than make use o it
w^t leave.

It is not in my Power to examine / Accts
o Messrs Robts & Co having no Vouchers & having
been told t I h no Business w them. As / last
Goods did not hold out till Capt. Jubbers
Arrival, & as the may be x^ting Expences this
Year ab^t Annamaboe I do not see how I
can pay away any Money except f /
Curr^t Expences o / Forts.

It gives me g^t Concern t y expect
an Estimate o / Expence o these Forts fm me
at present, but am in Hopes y will excuse
me f not sendg one when I give y my
Reasons wh are.

T it is impossible to determine / Expence
o Annamaboe, as t must rise or fall, ac-
cordg as / French sh pursue or drop the
Design o Settling.

1 / Prices o Goods at home are so un-
 certain t it is impossible here to determine
 what any Sum in Coast Money will
 require in England, as f Example y
 Reganne pants sell here f 30/- last Year
 they cost 24/- this Year 34/- in England.

Brandy Brandy sell here at 10/- last
 Year they were 6/3, this Year some at 9/-
 when y h got yr Books home & see how
 Goods sell here y can calculate pretty
 nearly what / Cargoes y send out will
 produce on / Coast, but t, fm / Nature
 o / Thg. must ever be out o my Power.

I tho I h got 4 Months Accs fm
 Whydah since I came here, yet they are such
 as I do not approve o, & therefore h not
 entered them in yr Books till I am better
 convinced o th^r Authenticity. If they are
 right, t Fort will cost £8 or 900 Sterlg
 p. Annum. But I must know wh^r they
 are right or no before I can make an
 Estimate.

I must likewise know how my Proposin
 abt / black Soldiers is relished, as t will
 be / Swon wanted us more certainty,
 both as they are not so liable to Morta-
 lity as white Men, & as th^r Pay
 will be in few^{er} & more staple Articles.
 However fm / little Experience I h had,
 I see in gen t / Maintenance o these
 Forts, Gambia, Pommahoe &
 Whydah togth wth yr Establish^{mt}

at home will require £12,000 p. Ann: & if
/ French continue to land Men o War here
annually, as they assure / Negroes they
will, our Expenses will probably rise
above t Sum.

Some y look upon / Introducⁿ o American Pro-
ducts here as a Thg wh may h bad Effects I sh
push t no farther. To pretend to justify it,
~~not~~ perhaps wd be in deavn. especially as it may
be condemned by higher Authority. The Dutch
Co are v angry w the People f neglectg /
Culture o Cotton abt wh they h had 120
Slaves employed f many Years at Heim,
& the Servants reply to / Cos Complaints t
if they want more Cotton they must
send them Money to buy more Slaves,
wh they well know they cannot do.
The Little Ground wh has bn cleared abt
this Castle, has, I believe, contributed to
make it more healthy, & therefore I hope
no Body will take it ill t I prevent
3 or 4 lives fm being overrun. f my
Health & Amuse^{mt}, especially as Capⁿ
Jubber has brot us no Garden Seeds,
f want o wh we sh be gely distressed.

Upon receivg yrs o / 18th Febr. I
wrote to / Dutch Gen. & hd his Answer
No 2* by wh y will perceive t y h bn
misinformed abt his Proposal to Messrs
Stockwell & Husbands in / Year 1749.
Since my arrival only 2 French Ships h
stop'd here f Water, o / first I advised

* Vide pp 699, 700 post

y long ago, & / last came when / Assurance Man
 o War was in this Road. The Cap^t o this
 Ship promised to go to deeward since he cd not
 procure liberty to trade at Annamaboe, but
 did not perform his Promise & he went no
 farther than Amissa & lay thr till / Man
 o [War] went to deeward & obliged him
 to weigh. She stood down / Coast till She
 got ont o Cap^t Daniels Sight & then stretched
 ont to Sea & turned up agⁿ to Amissa,
 where She lay some Time, after t She
 went to Elmina & since / Departure o /
 Assurance She made an Attempt^r to trade at
 Annamaboe, but / Bristol Ships thr got
 under Sail & sent him off / Coast. While /
 Frenchman lay here John Curranter sent
 up William to complain t / People at Cape
 Coast traded w him while those at Anna-
 maboe were debarred. I asked William
 who hd traded? He sd Mr Husbonds, why
 do not y acquaint Cap^t Daniel o it
 them as yr Father ordered y? I cannot
 do t at present bec Mr Husbonds &
 / Cap^t are tog^r, replied he. Why, sd I, thr
 is nothing in t, lay yr Charge ag^s me,
 & it will come round to Mr Husbonds.
 He readily agreed to t, so I went along w
 him & heard myself accused. I soon
 cleared up / Matter to Cap^t Daniels
 Satisfacⁿ & so did Mr Husbonds.

William drop'd his Charge, but he exclaims as
loudly agst ~~us~~ us as any Man at Port Annaboe
f not allowg / English Fantoms to trade w
whom they please. He insinuates t John &
he hgt controulg Powers promised them
fm home by letters. I hope he has no
Foundamⁿ f this, as it must render / English
o all hands / most contemptible here, f
Reasons wh I do not chuse to mention but
wh are sufficiently known to w^y Man
who is acquainted w / Affairs o this
Coast, & o John & his Family. To
conclude this Subject, be assured t, havⁿ
unpopular I may render myself amg /
Fantoms, I sh do w^y Thg in my
Power to prevent / French fm
tradg on this Part o / Coast.

27

J^y h, no 3 / Invoice o a Cargo f next
Year. The Books will now point out /
Prices Goods are paid away at on /
Coast, so when y find any Thg ex-
travagantly dear y must put Something
else in its Place. Ths were some Articles
in / last Cargo wh were over-rated, but
as no Body complained at first, & as I
suffered t^o / full as much as any o^r, so
I did not alter them, but intend to do
it now, in Gunpowder & Guinea
Stuffs. The Dutch pay away / former
to d^r servants at £2 p, half Bar^t. I
charged £3, & sh 6 / future make it
£2.10. wh y will find still above Cent^r
p. Cent^r advance. Guinea Stuffs are
A^{cc} in Slaves 2^{ac} in Slaves I paid

them to / Garrison at / same, & sh b / future
make them 1/6.

I will perceive in / Day Books t Goods
are higher charged at one Time than another,
t is occasioned by the beg sold to Elmina
when they were much wanted, & I always
gave Credit f what was received, likewise /
Mullatto Soldiers, when they asked ~~for~~ a
Piece o fine Goods on their Pay were made-
to allow more f it than / white Men, as
they knew better how to sell it.

... [Accts - Wants an Acct^l Vice Butcher] ...

The Affairs o this Country are, at present,
in such a Situation t I confess I cannot see
what will be / Result. We are told by some
t this Year / Ashantees & Intuffers are
either to fight or make Peace, but we h had
t Story w^t Year. However / Fantees
are quite tired out, & some o / most con-
siderable Cabb^{rs} in t Country, h dis-
patched secret Messengers to / King o
Ashantee, to let him know t if he comes
to fight, they will remain neuter, if so,
they will be / Satisfacⁿ to be last
devoured.

A Clergyman, Mr Thomas Thompson,
an itinerant Missionary fm / Society f
propagat^g / Gospel, is arrived here to
convert / Negroes. He asked my Opinion
o his undertaking wh I was not of fond o

giving gues of fear he shd think I wanted
to discourage him, yet on his pursuit, I
told him my Sentiments vry freely, but
as my Arguments were drawn fm / ^{various} Circumstances
o / Country & fm / Characters o
/ People, they had no bad Effect in coolg his
Zeal. His Dependance is upon / old
Propheys & super-natural Aid. I therefore
told him to go abt his Work directly, & if
he found t / Spirit cooperated w him
he m^t hope he was / Minister intended by
Heaven f / accomplish^t o these Prophe-
cies wh^{ch} had brot him hither, but t if he
was left to himself, he cd do no good, &
in t Case o^r not to throw away his
Time & Constitution to no Purpose. He found
funds / Negroes Credenda not quite so
bad as he expected. The Fetish, havg
something in it analagous to Witchcraft,
he encounters boldly, but hitherto wth
Success. This Week he sets out f Annamaboe,
where if he can put old John's
Morals to rights, he will perform a
Miracle.

... [Reports on Capt Lubbers outward
Cargo] ...

I am Gentlemen
Y^r most humble & Obed^t Serv^t
Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle June 11th 1752

At Annamaboe

Capt. Graham } wants abt 60
 Jenkins } Do
 Bowles } about 100
 Brown } Bristol
 } only hot 3 yet
 Harrison o Liverpool wants abt 30 is comg
 up in a Day or two
 Wilson o Rhode Island

Here.

Capt. Power o Bristol } full stowed & ready to sail
 Copple o Liverpool } got abt 60 Slaves here

P.S. all / Papers refered to in this letter, except
 / Invoices, are in / Box w / Books.

Inclosed are three Bills o Ladg, & five
 Certificates relatg to Capt. Jubber's Cargo.

Gentlemen

I Embrace this Opportunity
 by / Princess o Wales Capt. Jubber o Congrat-
 ulating upon / ports & ~~Sett~~ Settlements
 upon / Coast beg put into yr hands.
 and do Return you mine & my Father's
 Seniore thanks f / most distinguishg
 Marks o yr fav^r shewn us since yr
 Establishement as these h far Exceeded
 anythg o / like Kind in this Country

so I hope we sh^d shew by our Behaviour
t^hat we are not unworthy o^f them.

Upon Mr Melville's arrival he sent
me to Annamaboe where I h^{ad} done
everything in my power f^r / Interest
Intrest o^f / English Nation, & do assure
y^e t^hat Gentleman has bin Exceed^g Kind
to our family & is tak^g / most Effectual
steps to preserve peace in this Country
& to promote / Trade & Intrest o^f /
English Nation

I am Gentlemen

Y^r most Obliged
& Obed^t Humble
Serv^t

William Ansa Sessaracoo

Indorsed

" A List

The Books^o re
contained in this
Box "

" Dated y^e 12 June 1762 "

In this Box is Contained

1. Journal Ledger & Alphabet No 1.
2. 3 Day Books f Cape Coast Castle
3. 3 Extracts f Cape Coast Day Books
4. 3 Pay Bills f Cape Coast Castle
5. 3 Day Books f ~~Piscar~~
6. 4 Do Succondee
7. 4 Do Commenda
8. 3 Do Tantum quarry
9. 3 Do Winnebago
10. 3 Do Accra
11. 1 Do Whydah
12. A Garrison Ledger f Cape Coast Castle
13. Affidavits re Acts & Council
14. Plans & Letters fm / Engineer
15. Certificates
16. Letters concerning / French Trade
17. Receipts in full & Pay
18. Letters relatg to Atchumak
19. Letters between Cap^t Daniel & Tho Melish Esq
20. Mr Emerton's Acco^t Current
21. A Bill fm Mrs Desaynes at Whydah
22. A letter to Mrs Hollis

Memo ... [Stationary required] ...

Cape Coast Castle
12th June 1752

Joseph Harriman Sec^y.

note The following copy letters are very mouldy
& faded, & difficult to decipher. They are
enclosed in a modern doctet written in
pencil: - "No 18

" letters relatg to

" Achumah

" Sent as by test for Cape
Coast Castle on / 12th June 1752. "

1.
Letters between Thomas Melvil Esq^r President
o / Council at Cape Coast Castle and Monsieur
Jan Van Voort Director Gen at / Mine

Cape Coast Castle 4 Decr 1751. V.S.

Monsieur

Je suis avisé de Mr Senior notre Com-
mandant de Dixcove que le votre d'Aquadah
l'a dit avoir reçu une lettre de votre part par
laquelle il est fait savoir que le lieu et
habitans de d'Achumah appartenoient à
Aquadah, et que

le Conseil de Cape Coast, les Anglois avoient la
liberté d'y prendre ... Bois ... & chaux; mais sans
que les dits habitans ... de les assister;
... pour convaincre Mr Senior qu'il en ageroit
... information qu'il vendra ... de lui donner

De la Haye

Or, Monsieur de poursuivre
représenter les choses précisément comme elles
sont les juges de
nos actions

Vous avez véritablement écrit à votre
Commandant d'Aquada, ainsi que

me refusez ceci avec justice
Je signe Thomas Melvil

2.
A la Mine 17 Dec 1951. n.s.

Monsieur

En réponse a votre agreable du 4 C^r. v.s.

Je vous prie de vouloir me donner la justice de croire que je ~~me~~ souhaite non plus ardemment que de cultiver l'harmonie entre les deux nations respectives, mais que je serai ~~das~~ plus reprochable, si en cas que je negligerais les intérêts de notre ^{nation}, pendant que les affaires de la dispute soient demandé en Europe; Car sur les informations qu'on nous a donné, que votre Commandant de Dixcove a ouvertement déclaré aux peuples d'Anta que les Hollandois ont finalement cédé (?) la ~~terre~~ territoire d'Adjangwa la convention faite en présence de Mr House et qu'ils n'ont rien plus a dire a le lieu. nous avons été obligé, puisque sera été tout a fait contraire a ce qu'il a
se renouveler les ordres nécessaires a notre Commandant
maintenir les droit
de la nation

Suivant la convention;
et comme les ordres ne com... que ce que

7

[3 illegible lines]

signé Jan Van Veenst.

a Cape Coast th 19 th ~~19~~ Decembre 1751. os.

Monsieur

recevra la votre du 17 c^t n^s.

[5² lignes illégibles]

l'accord que nous fumes pour
la Suspension d'armes au port de Hamla
mais lorsqu'il était
sur le point de partir, il recut la suivante
message de vos chefs de Boutou et d'Aquddah,
que M^r de General se faisoit (?) de
a Cape Coast, et que persistoit (?)
a vouloir y aller, ils l'amenèrent ^{l'extrême (?)} de même
et lui fit dire, [l'ano tint (?)] que les Anglois
que étoient convenus

3.

Sans commenter — suscit. Tous ces messages
je voudrois savoir si toutes ces
personnes sont par vous autorisées a les envoyer
je souhaite pouvoir a ceux qui
m'emploient des matieres qui
prouveront votre disposi^m a l'égard des Anglois bien
mieux que tous les discours (?) du monde.
Toute ma Conduite a l'égard des Hollandais

est telle que j'étois prêt à toute heure à vous
en rendre compte, si vous le souhaitez, étant
persuadé que c'est une justice due au Sujet
d'un état intimement allié au nôtre. J'attends
de votre part le même
de tous vos procédés à l'égard des Anglois, afin
que chacun ^{soit justifié}
selon ses actions. Si vous
refusés ceci, nous aurons lieu de croire l'aut

debuter

Sous votre nom.

~~Toute ma conduite avec individus Hollandais est
telle que je suis prêt à toute heure à vous en
rendre compte, si vous le souhaitez, étant per-
suadé~~

[Par 4 lignes quite indecipherable]

et Thomas Melvil

A la Mune 21 Decr 1751 ns.

Monsieur

[4½ lines only; quite indecipherable]

et Jan Van Voorst

Cape Coast 11 Decr 1751 os

Monsieur

Hier
réponse de la mienne du 9 vs.
ont dites

du 21 ns. en

vous

que nous

~~vous nous a~~

vous nous accusez

J'avoue
censure; et sur le champ en recours à ma lettre
cité très mortifié d'une telle

sur quel^e elle serait fondée mais ce fut en vain.

Je vous y assure que l'on m'a rapporté que vos
 Commandants d'Aquada & Boutry ont
 que vous avez leurs écrits telles & telles
 choses, et vous de me dire si cela est vrai
 Y a-t-il aucune accusation on toute cela? Vous me
 répondez que vous ne savez rien de toute toutes ces
 choses; fort bien c'est justement ce que je soupçonnais,
 vu toutes vos protestations d'amitié pour les
 Anglois, or il s'enquiert de la, ou ~~qu'est~~ que les
 Messieurs ont débata? ^{des histoires, on}
 votre nom [?], sans y être aucunement
 autorisés; ou bien que les Nègres ont rapportés des
 Messages qu'ils n'ont jamais reçus: Si le premier
 cas n'est pas véritable, il faut donc que ce
 soit l'autre [?], mais vous ma
 lettre le 20 ns. au soir

4.

Lorsque vous par[?] m'informer de la vérité
 d'un fait, il est un peu étrange que vous me priés
 de le prouver; quoique si je le pouvois, je n'aurai
 besoin de vous écrire, vous ayant déjà dit que mon
 dessein en vous écrivant étoit d'apprendre au
 Comité, si ce qu'on dit est vrai: ajoutons que si vous
 m'en priez mande, que nos Commandants de Diacour
 & Succonde aient fait savoir aux Nègres, qu'ils
 aient reçus lettres de ma part, ou je les priai
 de dire à vos Capotiers du pays de Hamla que je
 leur défendais d'aller à la Mine, je me serais
 enquis [?] sur le charap de la vérité ou
 fausseté du fait; ce que vous Souhaitiers savoir
~~ne s'en~~ n'étant pas, si je les avais
 autorisés à parler ainsi mais aussi s'ils
 n'auraient point aussi parlé sans aucune autorité
 de toute.

Quant aux

Mêmes que vous dites

être des Mensonges inventés pour vendre les
Hollandais Misérables, n'est pas du même avis;
il m'a plu fort que vous leur donniez cette
ap. Paala pour que

vous seriez embarrassé à traverser des
histoires propres les Anglois

car eux mêmes

Souffrez me, Monsieur, que je vous prie, de

[4 lines too decipherable to make sense]

re Thomas Melch

A Cape Coast 24 Mars 1752 or

Monsieur

Dans un tems qu'une autre Nation
entreprend de faire un établissement
sur la Côte, que n'auroit pas manqué de
rendre inutiles ceux qui appartiennent aux
Anglois et Hollandais, dans un tems que
la Grande Bretagne vole à notre secours
avec une promptitude

gueres, q' aucun Hollandais
tant soit par Zele pour la bien de la patrie
de l'embaras pour une
affaire dont toute la gloire aboutira à créer
des nouvelles confusions
paix étrange en Europe; mais non n'est
plus vrai en Afrique.

Dans notre lettre du 30 Octobre nous
entrons dans un détail de nos droits sur
Achumak, nous vous offrons de soutenir
ces droits par l'evidence la plus claire; nous
pretendons à cet endroit un de la
cessation dont nous sommes mutuellement
convenus. Q'avez vous répondu à tout cela.
Vraiment vous nous dites, que pour venir à un

052.
détail des justes droits de la nation Hollandaise
avec vous... ne servira qu'à nous humbler &
et n'avancera ~~rien~~ rien, voilà vos propres F-
paroles et apparemment la raison en laquelle
vous retournés retânés ce lieu. 5.

Le Motif que nous engage à vous écrire
à présent est afin de procurer une réponse
catégorique aux questions suivantes: quels
sont vos droits? quand est ce que vous avez
commencé à les exercer? quels faits produits
vous pour prouver que vous avez jamais
exercé aucun acte de Souveraineté, avant
les derniers troubles au pais de Hanla?

Si vous êtes résolu à ~~vous~~ garder la
place parceque vous voulez absolument la
garder, dites la nous donc au moins,
afin que nous sachions aussi à quoi
nous en tenir.

Si le droit vous appartient, pourquoi fuir
l'occasion d'examiner la façon dont
vous acquiesces [?], au moins celle de votre
Compagnie

a notre [votre?] lettre de 14 Nov.

[y l'avez quita indecipherable]

Thomas Melvill

Guillaume Herbrands
Ebenezer Jongs.

La Mine 6 April 1752 n.s.

Messieurs

me a transporté [?] par
une canot de negres

hostilités dans le pais de Hanta. signé
et ratifié en nade de la Mine
de Sa Majesté nommé la gloire, je fus tout
a fait surpris sur la

Notres [?] lettres du 24 Fev et bien
plus sur vos nouvelles demandes d'une
~~et raporte~~ [reponse] catégorique
des droits que les Hollandais ont
sur la terre d'Adjongura.

J'ai votre lettre au Conseil
que ne fut moins étonné de voir une telle
demande apres tant de representations que
j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire dans mes
lettres du 19 Nov et 14 Dec. dernier a
cet egard c'est pourquoi nous sommes
obligés de vous repeter les

paroles dont vous faites mention dans votre
lettre que nous avons écrit précédement,
et lesquelles vous dans votre
susdite lettre pour raison que les Holland-
ois occupent cette place consistant.

Pour venir a un détail des justes
droits de la Nation Hollandais avec
vous il ne serviroit qu'a nous troubler
et n'avanceroit rien (mais j'ajouterai
ce qu'il y a été fait, que vous passés [?]]
pour oblié) puisque les différents sont
demandés en Europe pour la
Termination.

Voilà le cas; faites donc Messieurs, un
détail de vos droits prétendus la au lieu et
à la place on les affaires sont demandées
pour la termination, comme nous avons fait
des droits de nos justes possessions en con-
formité de l'accord fait en présence de
Mr House; car nous ne connoissons aucun
juge

[4 lines indecipherable]

Jan Van Voorst.

A Cape Coast 4 Avril 1752 e.s.

Monsieur nous avons reçu la votre du 6 Avril
que vous et votre
Conseil Surprise

de divers droits que
prétendent avoir sur Achumach

Tout ce qui nous vient de notre
correspondence avec vous c'est que vous nous
faite voir à nos Supérieurs,
que vous d'avez pour vous

toujours été prêts à terminer, par un examen
impartiel, aucun différend

avec ceux que le devoir et
l'intérêt desroient nos amis
et en tous tems; et plus à
présent que jamais

Par cette correspondance nous nous faisons
fort de prouver que non seulement vous
prétendez —

7.

a un endroit auquel vous n'avez point de droit, mais que vous allez même jusqu'à en prendre possession, sans vouloir nous donner aucune raison pour un procédé si inouï.

Nous montrames que lorsque nous vous représentons les plaintes les mieux fondées faites de la part des natifs du lieu même, vous les avez méprisées, et cela d'une façon qui convient peu à la politesse que devrait avoir un homme de votre rang.

M. le Capitaine Daniels écrit à votre chef d'Aquadah, que les habitants d'Achumah se plaignent de lui; M^r Young, qui se trouva sur les lieux au même tems, témoigne d'avoir reçu les mêmes plaintes.

[4 lignes indecipherables]

la compte de Mr Senide.

[7 lignes indecipherables]

Thomas Melvil
Guillaume Young
Husbands
Ebenzer Young

[N.B. Perhaps copies of these correspondance are among / papers produced to / Board of Trade. If not try these again later here. T. 40 1518]

To / President & Council at Cape Coast Castle
Dixcove fort, March 6. 1752

Gentlemen

The 1 cur. 2 Dutch Soldiers came to Achumah, who took fish fm / inhabitants; & one o them refusing to take abt $\frac{1}{4}$ part o / value in payment o / same they thrashed him as y will please perceive by / copy o / Letter inclosed, wh I wrote to / Dutch chief o Aquadah, by / advice o Capt. Daniel & Mr Young: this is likewise his answer annexed.

Yest / Dutch chief on his way to Aquadah stopped at Achumah & inquired f Catoocoo's pany but he be^d absent, told / people to tell him t t place belonged to / Dutch & if they sed to leave (?) t place; wh did not within 3 days time he wd send & pany ar him. Capt. Daniel & Mr Young were ashore came to inform me o this, Jam & Nassau Senior.

To / Dutch Chief o Aquadah ..
Dixcove Fort March 4 1752 OS

certainly be ignorant o / articles o / cessanⁿ o hostilities agreed (?) betwixt (?)

Gen & Council o Cape Coast in / presence o Richard Howze Esquire

Majesty's Ship / Glory; & as / natives o Achumah complain to me t two o yr Soldiers who came this Sunday last (via a manifest vidan o / sd cessanⁿ) & used (?) badly (?) some o / inhabitants o t Village; took fish fm them, & obliged them to take less than f payment

two inches o Tobacco as equivalent to two grains & a half o gold & likewise s^d (?) in presence o / bearers t they did not come this f fish alone,

but likewise to shew (?) them the place belonged to /
Dutch Naⁿ. Please let me know if it was by yr
orders return o / messenger; I will
must be obliged to acquaint / Commander o his Britan-
nick Majesty's Ship here, & who y may
be assured will write / Gen, no ways to yr Satisfacⁿ.
if it was not by yr orders, expect y will punish those
who h committed / above hostilities. in / meantime
I am &c Nassau Senior.

P.S. Please write me in French as I do not under-
stand / Dutch Tongue.

2.
The below I take to be a translaⁿ o / above letter
Je crois que le dessous est une traduction de la dessus
lettre.
Monsieur

me. de vs
Dix-neuf Fortesse 4 Mars 1752.

Assurément, vous ne pouvez être ignoré de ces articles
de la cessation des hostilités dont on est convenue entre
Monsieur le General d'Elm in a et Messieurs les Conseillers
du Cap Corse, en présence de Mr Richard House, Capitaine
de la Vaisseau de Sa Majesté Britannique la Gloire, et
comme les Natives de Achumah ils se plaignent à moi, que
deux de vos Soldats, qui étés venue là le dimanche passé
(en violant manifesté de la même Cessation) ont mal-
traité et battu un des habitants de cet (?) village,
priant leur poisons, et leur obligés de prendre
moindre moins que demie paiement pour le même
deux ponces de Tabac est
(équipollant à deux grains et demie d'or) et
disoient (?) en présence de le porteur
qu'ils ne viennent seulement pour les Poissons mais
pour les montrer que cet place là, apartenait à la
Nation Hollandaise. Vous plaisez me faire savoir si
cela étoit par vos ordres, par le porteur, autrement
je serai obligé de avertir Monsieur le Capitaine de la Na-
vire (?) de Sa Majesté Britannique, qui est en S
vous pouvez être assuré à Mr le General en null (?)
façon à vous votre approbation. Si cela n'étant pas par vos
ordres j'espère Monsieur que vous punirez ceux de

voire fortresse qui ont commis les
hostilités

reste re

P.S. Vous plaît il de m'écrire dans la langue
Française comme je ne la langue Hollandaise

Dixion Fort March 4th 1752.

The following is / answer / chief o Aquidah sent
fm Bourey as well as I cd get it explained fm
my messenger

"I had no business at Achumah: & t ab/
Congress at Succowda I was sensible t place was
made ~~to~~ appear to belong to / Dutch: he himself
ordered 1 2 Soldiers to come to Achumah

3.

f Fish, & it it was nothing to me what they gave
/ inhabitants f it;

f him to Elmina; what was done in his absence he
cd not tell; but when he went back to Aquidah [he]
wd enquire into / affair concerning his people, & wd
send his boy to acquaint me o / same (f he under-
stood neither English nor French, so cd not
write to me); I must not think Achumah
belonged to / English, f it belonged to / Dutch a-
nything I did in regard to t place, / inhabitants
informed him o; Sinc o his Soldiers were sick,
where he wd send w'y day to take fish at
Achumah; if I had occa to send to him
here after, desired I wd not write any letter, but
tell / boy my message, f he shd not b known
/ contents o my letter. If one o / Bourey Soldiers
had not understood French "

To / President & Council

Dixcore fort March 4th 1752

Gentlemen,

Yest^y m^o, after writ^g To y, received /
following message fm / Chief o Achumah:
t he had inquired into / affair o his Soldiers;
but t they had anyways (?)
abused / people o Achumah; t they

^{purchased} when they
were the last Sunday, f wh they paid / full
value in o Tobacco
desired he wd write to / Gen

: & if we (?) cd get / Gen to give
orders not to send his soldiers to
Achumah he wd desist fm it: but till such
time he wd continue (?)

by his messenges t I was certain / Soldiers
had beaten (?) Achumah:

t they were far fm pay^g / value o / fish

They took:

French having

in good wth him in t Tongue

(wh he wd send to Mr Bacot at Boulogne)
desired what message he sent me b / future
mt be in writ^g

Yest^y ev^g Accra (son to Amde Cabocera)
acquainted me t 2 o / Dutch Soldiers had bn tho,
whom he told (by Mr Young's desire when on
Shore here / 5th curr^t) t his father sd t t place
& / inhabitants thereof belonged to / English: but
if / Dutch wanted to buy anythg ~~tho~~, they
tho' if they took anythg fm thence wd

4.

pay^g

t they m^t not imagine t an English Man
o War beg here any way intimated
t village was Dutch property; & t / quantity o To-
bacco they offered to pay them f^r the fish was by the
chief's orders; but they talked so impertinently,
they wd take the fish w^t payg them anythg f^r it,
wh they accordgly did, &c Nabbar Senior

To Ebenezer Young Esq.

Disscuss Feb 8 March 1752

Sir

This instant Ando has sent to inform me t
a Woman belongg to Achumah on her comg back
fm Aquadah by night, where she hd bn to make
Custom f a deceased friend, acquainted them (1
people o Achumah) t / chief / same day was
sendg his people to make disturbance at Achumah,
upon wh / people march all the effects to / bush.
Soon afterwards / Elmina canoe men quarrelled
& one put /^r in irons. Tmg 2 Soldiers & a
Co Slave came fm Aquadah to Achumah; &
on the s^eg / man in irons (?) asked them
why they did not carry / prisoner to Aquadah
as they knew t place belonged to / Dutch.
Emissa (1 man who put /^r in ~~irons~~ irons)
answered t

upon wh one Soldier sent /^r
Soldier w/ Co's Slave back to Aquadah
to / chief to send him all / Co's
Slaves he hd

I told Ando's Messenger to tell Ando on no acc^t
to commit any f he knows / English
cd & wd always protect him, & t he was
necessity. At / same time dispatched a

Messengers to Achumah to tell / Dutch (?)
desired he wd not commit any hostility
at t place, after t to his chief,
who I told I beg to acquaint t I was informed
his people were go^g to make disturbance at
Achumah, but expected He wd keep them from
it; & if he had any th^g to say agst / inhabi-
tants o t Village, to send to me
Satisfacⁿ letter to / chief o Aquadah, am

5.

Write
please send a smart
memoriate ~~out~~ / contents
g^{ly} ~~be~~ afraid it will not be in my power
to keep peace
I have not wrote to / Council by this conveyance
to y as
I was on board Capt Daniel;
so y will
to them (?).

is just now come on Shore, /
prisoner he has sent in a canoe to Elmina &
designs this night; he confirms
what is already sd. & C Nassau Senior.

To / President & Council

Dux core fort March 8th 1752

Suit^g to Mr Young o this
days date, he received / following answer
/ chief o Aquadah:

"t Achumah belonged to him; if / Gentlemen
o / Council at Cape Coast Castle ordered me to

take care o anything was it

w'd not

?; 9

took / oppy (?) o sendg a white man to
 Achumak to buy fish durg his absence; but
 he b'n tht he (/ white man) shd not be done
 it; if I w'd give

/ English, he w'd be nothing to do tht, but
 until
 was his business to send b / Achumak
 people as they belonged to him & not to me"

It is no ~~more~~

my whetg

to / chief o Aquadah as he will not under-
 stand it. & c. Nassau Senior

Plantan Office November 8th 1752

Sir The Draught o a Letter fm / Committee
o / Co o Merchants tradg to Africa to Thomas
Melvill Esquire at Cape Coast Castle wh y
delivered to me Yesterday, having been laid before /
Lords Comyns owners f Trade & Plantans, the
Lords hips h directed me to return / sd Draught
to y w some Additions wh they h thot proper to
make thereto, & do desire y will lay / same
before / Committee, t / Original Letter may be
made conformable thereto before / Departure
o / Ships wh y acquainted me are now
ready to sail. I am - &c -

John Personall

William Hollier Esq^r }
Secy to / Committee o
/ Co o Merchants
tradg to Africa }

Memo f Cape Coast.

It appears on examining / Books t near £
£1000 p Annum is given away in Presents
& Dashes, o wth ther is no Check it is therefore
proposed t some Remedy be thot o to supply
this Defect.

Query whr / Council signg to / Delivery
o all Presents would not be a Sufficient
Remedy.

Between June 30 & Dec^r 31 1752. the
is Charg'd f Ground Rent f Area £340

T^o 1518 (cont'd)

Copy o a letter to / Committee by Cap^t Harrison
o Liverpool
Cape Coast Castle 27th June 1752.

Gentlemen

By Cap^t Jubber I wrote y / Inclosed
o / 11th Curr^t. This goes by Cap^t Harrison o
Liverpool who sails fm this place, / trade still
continues v^y dull I hear to Day, but cannot
affirm it f a truth t / ships at Annama-
boe are now payg 9.02 f men, if so, I sh
not wonder to see 11.02 given before they are
all dispatched

Since my last I had a letter fm Mr
Tymewell Gov^r o Commenda acquaintg me
t / Inhabitants o t Town were under gr
uneasiness upon / reports o / Ashanteees com^g
down as / Fort is in Ruins, so I h ~~seen~~
sent / Brick layers to put it into as good
a state as our present want o Slaves &
crafts to carry Materials will admit o.

I am plagued w^y Day wth complaints
abt / Half Saps; tho t Article is g^{tly} in
Demand, yet y^r h^{on} refused in Slaves
upon trust, when almost anythg goes.

In / No 10 o Cap^t Jubbers Cargo
are 16 pieces Barred Checks 24 yds @
24/- wh is a mistake f none o them mea-
sure above 20 yards.

In y^r Supply o next year let / Stripes o
y^r Chelloes be Broad as / diffe betw Broad
& Narrow at Succowdee is 10/- pr piece. This
I did not know when I wrote y my last
letter.

There are come down since my last 2 Portuguese Snows now in Elmina Road, one Dutchman at Annamaboe & yesterday one Frenchman passed, whom I saw to day at Amissa. Capt. Brown of Bristol Snow is sailed this day to leeward to try his Fortune as far as Awa, & as he begins his purchase at Annamaboe he cannot afford to give as good a price as Ships who want only 60 or 70 Slaves

I told y^e Mr Thomson our Missionary was determined to go & Preach / Gospel at Annamaboe, accordingly he wrote to William Ansoh to acquaint John & set out last Tuesday. Yesterday Morning he returned bag & baggage re^l infected, fm this place he went on Board a Ship in Annamaboe Road & sent a Message to John, desiring a Canoe to carry him on shore, John sent him word t^h he was sick & therefore cd not give him any of his Co. t^h William was lame & cd not write, & t^h therefore he must return to Cape Coast & they wd send for him when they wanted him. Y^e Corn Brandy makes John & his Family v^y good Englishmen at present but f^o all t^h they do not chuse a spy among them when they expect / return of French, as they wd consider Mr Thomson as no better if / French were to return

In my last I forgot to acquaint y^e one part^r wh^o is I had a Message fm John tillg me t^h we never wd be easy till I took his French Son into / Service. Accordingly when

Mr Young & I Young & I were at Annama-
 hoe I spoke to him & asked if he was willg to
 be employed; & if he once took our pay &
 went back to / French I wd certainly make
 him repent it Conte qui Conte (these were
 my words). He desired time to advise abt
 it wth his Father & accordg^{ly} came up here wth
 William & declined / offer. He sd if / French
 did not return he wd be v^{ry} glad o our pay,
 but if they did, he wd serve them. Indeed I
 cd not blame him, but / same time think
 we must be gr^t Fools to accept him on these
 terms when his consequence ceases, as it must
 do in t^e case. If he is only John's Slave, &
 has wanted a cloth to cover his nakedness
 since he made such a brilliant figure in
 France. When I call him John's Slave, I
 do not deny but he is his Son: but he is
 so by one o his own Slaves, wh makes
 him slave to John's heir.

Before I conclude, I must abs /
 Freedom to acquaint y^t t^{he} Thomson's
 Salary is too small f^r this expensive
 Country: indigence will make him con-
 temptible to / Negroes who may f^r t^{he}
 conclude t^{hat} we do not believe our own
 religion in order to remedy t^{he} & not to
 load p^{re}stablishm^t already much too
 scanty. I wd propose / Society shd pay
 to y^e his Salary, & t^{hat} he shd b^e goods
 here abt / Cost wh will make his £10
 ann^l to £120 p^r annuam, & upon t^{he} he
 may make a Shift. He does not know

o this proposition, I wish ~~to~~ I believe he will
oppose it; f his Zeal is mixed with
no terrestrial consideration I assure y^e

He is go^g to set up a school to teach
/ Negroes to read. I do not know how f
will be relished at Home if we stop this I
will venture to prophesy t it will h no o^r
effect than making them more accomplished
accomplished knaves, f in a Country wth
Gov, wth security ~~of~~ f property, an
addin o Knowledge to a few is only
making them more Capable o perpetrating
what they all h an equal inclinⁿ to.

I hope / necessary measures are taken
at home to begin / Fort at Annamaboe
this year & to h a force on / Coast superior
to / French wth wh / Fort will not an-
swer yr expectations, f it will not alter
/ Nature o / Fantees & make them forego
the Interest.

The arg^g b expectations o / Ashanties
comg down this year, a little time will
determine how they are founded if they
do come I do not see what is to oppose
them, f Intuffero has not 2,000
Men & Fantee is divided. The Success o
/ Ashanties will alter everythg here &
destroy / Trade f many years to come, if
not f ever, f what will remain after
/ Consumpt o 250,000 Men, Women &

Children is taken away; a little Gold, a few Teeth & some Duncol Slaves we may get, but after Fantie is intermined we must expect few or no more Gold Coast Slaves. However it is needless to anticipate by melancholy reflections / Honor o those events wh we cannot prevent. I am Gentlemen

Yours &c^a

Signed Thomas Melvil.

Endorsed "Letter from Thomas
Melvil Esq^r
Dated 20th August 1752"

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

Gentlemen

I intended to h wrote y / yth Curr^t by Capt Jenkins o Bristol who wereⁿ from Annamaboe o Jamaica w abt 220 Slaves, but as he sailed one Day sooner than I had Reason to think he wd I missed / Oppy. Inclosed are some Papers relatg to his carryg away some Negroes from / Windward Coast.

One / 4th Curr^t died Intiffero Hong o Waddaw, on / 8th I got Notice o it & immediately acquainted / Fantie's. Two

* Fanteem

or three Days after t they sent me a Message desiring me to send to / Warraw Camp & acquaint t People t they had nothing to fear, & to beg o them not to go fm / Place where they were, nor to take any Measures abt mak^g for Peace w / Ashantees until they heard fr^m me.

I knew v^y well t / Fantees had given gr Cause o Distrust to / Warraws & t they wd put no Confidence in what any Messenger x fm them sd, & therefore I asked / Fantees why do y not send / Message yourselves? He frankly owned t unless they did it by / English they wd gain no Credit. I then told him t I was well assured / Warraws wd believe any Message we sent as long Experi^{ce} shd hd taught them t we were th^r Friends, & t longer Experi^{ce} shd h taught / Fantees / same lesson but t within these ten Years, w^t any Manner o Provocaⁿ they had bn endeavoring to cast us off & to connect themselves w a People to whom th^r Fathers were utter Strangers, & w whom we never cd unite; t doubtless they were v^y solicitous at present to prevent / Warraws & Ashantees fm joining as they owned t / certain Consequence o t wd be th^r attackg / Fantees w united Forces, but if we presented t, & brot / Warraws into th^r Alliance instead o t o / Ashantees how did we know but we were assisting those who were on / Eve o takg / French, our Rivals, into th^r Bosom, & thereby becom^g our worst Enemies. However as they came f our assistance in an Affair o this Imp^e, I

hoped t they were disposed to become our
 thorough Friends & as a Token o it to
 agree w us in / most solemn Manner never
 to suffer any French man to set Foot in the
 Country, if they did this we were ready to
 do ~~anything~~ any Thg f them t they cd desire,
 & if they were attacked wd do our utmost
 to furnish them w Arms & Ammunition
 to fight, & w Protecⁿ in Case they were beat.
 The Messenger (a Man o some Consequence)
 told me t he thot my Demands were v^y
 reasonable & what he durst say wd be com-
 plied w but t while we were talkg /
 Wardsaws wd be comg to a Revolution o
 givg themselves up to Ptshantee, & therefore
 ther was no Time to be lost in sendg /
 Message. To this I replied; it is v^y
 natural f y to be anxious abt yr own
 Business & is it not as natural f me to
 think o mine? We must make one Affair
 o all this, & not suffer one Part o it to go
 before another, so beware how y attempt
 to make us yr Dupes as y may thereby
 infallibly destroy yr own Country, Famtee
 & Warsaw must send Deputies to Cape
 Coast & give Hostages f / due Performance o
 what's sh be agreed on as likewise
 Security given us f yr standg to yr
 Agreement w us But lest y shd suffer
 by any Delay o mine I will directly dispatch
 Messengers to / Warsaw Camp to let them

Knows t/ English & Fantees h heard o Intufferer's
Death, t I desire they wd not be cast down nor take
any sudden Resolⁿ upon it; t I am ab/
Desire o/ Fantees now in Treaty f/ Defence
& Security o both People, & shd matters not
turn out as I expect I will take Care to give
them sufficient Warning to provide f their own
Safety, & in /mean Time desired them to send
down some Cabocers here properly authorized
to ~~con~~ conclude a Treaty w / Fantees under
our Medianⁿ. Now, continued I to / Fantee
Messenger, y see by / Turn o this Message,
t / Success o /whole Matter depends upon
yourselves, so go home & take yr Measures
accordgly.

I sent ~~to~~ w him abt 40 Gall: Brandy,
some Cloths & Tobacco & I hear t /most
considerable Cabocers h already agreed to
my Proposals; they meet in / night, & only
communicate /affair to one Cabocers at a
Time, this they do to prevent those in / French
Interest fm discourg what they are abt before
they h secured / Majority. To Morrow I sh
hear what Accepⁿ they meet w fm / Braffoe,
& by next Oppy I hope to give y a good Acct
o/ whole.

The buildg o Annamaboe Fort must necessarily
be an Article in this Treaty & I dare say, after
what has happened, t will not be neglected.

I h all / Co Slaves now employed at
Commander & sh this Season h / Curtain Wall
tereds / Dutch built up, we want 14 twelve
Pounders w Carriages f / new Platform & /
two Bastions facg / Dutch Fort, when they are

mounted & will never be troubled w any more
Disputes abt / Landg Place etc.

The Fantee Carriers are daily teasing me f
Cames, so I ~~much~~ wish f w^d send 20 or 30 o
such as Jubber brot out.

The Trade here is but vj indib^t, but the has
bn some 10 keeward & / Ships h exceeded
my Expectans. If the are no gr Voyages
made this Year I hope the will be few or no
losg Ones. Slaves at Annamaboe now at
8 & 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz lately at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ & 10.

Capt Graham carries this, he goes f Jam-
aica w abt 220 Slaves.

I hope when you send out Materials f
Annamaboe f will not forget to send two
Sloops o abt 25 Tons to carry dunes lme,
otherwise we sh make slow Progress.

The Rains h bn uncommonly gr this Year,
& / Season after them vj fatal to / Dames
who are almost all dead. Our new Soldiers
h all bn sick but, except 3 or 4, are all re-
coverg. I am &c. Thomas Melvil.

Cape Coast Castle

Aug^r. 20th 1752.

At Annamaboe

Bristol Capts	{	Butler wants abt 100 Slaves as I am told
	{	Charles Smith just arrived w about 100 Slaves
Rhode Island	{	Pennegar
	{	Knowles
	}	2 Rum Sloops

At Wonnebah } ~~the~~ Bristol { Capt William Brown has got abt
 At Succondee } { Capt Hyamch Brown bound f
 Annamahoe

In Cormantyn Road

1 French Snow

1 Dutch Ship

Ready to sail

Capt Alexr Graham o Bristol

Capt Wilson a Rum Snow f Jamaica w abt 1/10 Slaves
 Goods in Demand

Negamine pants

Bejuta pants red } India

Blue half Sags Stitched 3 upon a Slave

Cross barrid Checks

Blackburn Do 20 yds

Allegars & Callawampors

Serra cundee

Carved birdg Guns

Cuttanies

Taffaties

Long Ells { one upon a Slave
 blue, grass & postin green }

Since writg / above I h^d Intelligence fm
 Abba, wh is / first Town in Fantee f Gt new
 reg ab least twice as big as Annamahoe,
 The Caboceers the sent to / Braffor (or Capt.
 Gen & Stadt-holder) to know if he hd any Slaves
 in / French attemptg to settle at Annamahoe,
 & if he hd he must give up all Thots o it, f
 as the Fanters knew no o^r white men but /

English & Dutch so Abba was determined to
 h no st in the Country. The Braffoe replied
 t it was true he had received a Cloth Hat &
 Came & someth^g besides fm / French & was
 promised a gt deal more when they came back
 but since Abba was agst the settling he wot
 be so too, & t I must send him Oz. 20 o
 Goods f opening his Mouth in our Cause. The
 Abbas answered t he must only ask ten
 Ounces as I belonged to the Soldiers & always
 paid my Customs regularly. So they h sent
 down a list o Cabrio who are to h among them
 includ^g / Braffoe, Oz. ~~28~~ 34. 8 o Goods
 besides 3 Ankers o Brandy to be sent to /
 diff Towns to summons them to meet /
 Braffoe upon an Affair wh concerns all
 Fanter. The Braffoe desires t / whole may
 be kept secret till they meet, t those People
 who h sent the Children to France may h no
 Time to make a Party to oppose / Treaty. The
 meet^g will be in less than a fortnight so by /
 next Oppy I hope to give y a good Acct
 o / Issue o this Business wh at any st Time
 it wd h bn gt Folly to h attempted.

Endorsed

"Letter fm Mr Melvil
dated 23^d Septemb^r 1752"

To / Committee of Co^o Merchants Tradg to Africa

Gentlemen I wrote y^e by Cap^t. Alexander Graham
of Bristol on / 20th. Altho since t^e Time I h^{ve} been em-
ployed abt what I th^o mentioned, I mean abt
makg a Treaty w / Fantee f^r excludg / French
fm ever settl^g in th^e Country. Two Days ago
Deputies fm / diff^t Towns arrived here,
& after apologiz^g as well as they cd f^r th^e
past Conduct, they namd / Sum t^e we must
pay f^r givg up th^e French Connexions. They
asked a thousand Bendies (a Bendy is
£8) on wh I refused to give them any.
Answer only told them they must take us
f^r Fools: I gave them Brandy &c & sent
them to Town & set Cudjoe to work to talk
w each separately, & last Night he concluded
/ Bargain f^r one hundred Bendies to all
Fantee & abt twenty in private Bribes to
/ leadg men.

They agree to give us full Security f^r /
punctual Performance o / Treaty o wh I hope
to be able to send y^e an Original by / merch
Man o War. This h^{ve} been a v^y expensive
Affair but when / Service is compared w /
Expense I hope it will not be thot t^e I h^{ve}
been extravagant. I compute / whole will
cost abt £1400 in Trade, or abt £600 in Goods
at prime Cost, wh tho it be a Trifle

considered in a national light, yet it is a
 gr deal on^t o our annual Supply. I h, in
 this Affair, not depended on my own
 Judgm^t alone, but h consulted w^y Person
 on whose Judgm^t & Veracity I cd h / least
 Dependee, & w^y ~~One~~ One assures me t after
 / Treaty is finished we h nothing to fear
 fm / Efforts o / French on this Coast. Mr
 Husband's says f his Part he will reckon us
 as secure as if we hd twenty Men o War
 upon / Coast. I only mention these Part^{rs}
 to shew y t I h done as well as I cd, & shd
 future Events prove t we h done nothing, I
 hope it will not be imputed to me as
 a Crime. After / whole Affair is over
 I sh give y a Detail o my Proceedgs, &
 submit / whole to y^r Judgm^t.

Two or Three Days ago a Ship fm
 Rochell arrived here to recover a Debt
 due by Messrs Roberts, Husband & Bot-
 ler o ab^t £4300 payable in Slaves. The
 Captain proposes go^g to Leeward to buy ab^t
 200 Slaves fwh he has bro^t a Cargo & trusts
 to Mr / Husband's f / Remainder. Mr Husband's
 & he want my leave to land here ab^t 40
 Slaves, whom he purchased to Windward,
 but I do not really find t I h Power to
 grant it w^t bring^g my Character under
 Suspicious t I wd chuse to avoid.

Trade at Annamaboe is indif^t. Slaves
 at 02.9 f Mon. / Goods in Demand /

same as when I last wrote. Captain W^m.
Brown o Bristol will sail soon, by him I sh
write y fully.

This goes by a Dutch Ship Via Surinam
wh is one Reason why I do not chuse to be
too part^r. / Reason f wh ~~may~~ my
next will explain. I am A^gre.
Gentlemen
Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle

23rd September 1752.

Endorsed "Letter from Thomas
Melvil Esq^r dated 30th
October 1752"

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

On / 22^d Curr^t arrived here George
Cockburn Esq^r o his Majesty's Ship Glory. By
him I received / Sketch o Observ^{ans} re upon
my Conduct, as likewise yr Letters o/ 18th
June + 1st July.

On / 24th. I sent f Quassah (John
Curranter's ~~son~~ Heir) + William Ansah
to attend Capt. Cockburne, Mr Hubbands,
George Bannishree + myself to Annama-
boe whither we were go^g to take Possessⁿ +
erect / British Flag upon / Ruins o/ Fort.
Its / Flag was not hoisted there before but
near John's House

After the Arrival here on / 26th, / Glory
 sailed directly & on / 27th we went on shore
 attended by all / Capts o/ ~~Merchant~~ Ships
 in v^y g^t Parade. We were received at / Water-
 side by my Man Womam & Child who cd
 walk. From thence we went to John's House,
 & delivered the Message contained in yr
 letters, & Capt Cockburne told him what he
 tho^t Right in his Depart^{mt}, wh was to as-
 sure him o/ Protecⁿ o/ English Man, &
 t^h now we were go^g to begin build^g our
 Fort directly. John told us t/ Fort was
 our own, no Body else had any Business
 w^{it}, we m^t begin when we pleased. He
 is to furnish Lodg^{gs} f/ People.

A few Days before / Arrival o/ Glory, /
 Fonteneas Fantee Man assembled in / Broffors
 Town, & thr in / Presce o my Messengers made
 a solemn Declaratⁿ t/ Country now in-
 habited by them was conquered under /
 Auspices, & at / Expence o / English: t^h
 therefore they had no Right to dispose o
 it to any o^r Man. Then they declared it
 Treason f any Fantee to suffer / French to
 settle betw Queen Ann's Point & James
 Fort Neera, either by build^g Forts or
 otherwise. I am in hourly Expectatⁿ o/
 Arrival o Deputies, fm / diff^t Orders o the
 Gov, to swear Allegiance & Fidelity to /
 English, & to give Hostages f / punctual
 Observance o / laws.

Till this important Affair is over it is impossible for me to go thro' various Observations o' Lords o' Trade w^t Accuracy w^h my present Situation, / nature o' Charges ag^t me & / Dignity o' Board require, not neglect^g / Publick Business, & therefore I must beg a little Respite fm^r the Lords hips & fm^r y^e, & this I earn / bolden to ask as by / Contents o' this letter y^e will clearly see t^e / Delay affects my Character & not / National Interests, & when^r these Clash in Appearance I hope I am not yet so abandoned, ~~how~~ how hideous sorrows Malice & Falshood may paint me, as not to prefer / Letter [sic. Letter?] leav^g t^e Rubbish w^h has ben thrown upon my Reputation to be cleared away when my Duty will afford me Time.

As to my unpopularity am^g / Fanatics I sh^d say noth^g abt it at present t^e fear I sh^d be that t^e result upon my Success, only t^e I must h^e some Interest to get 95,000 Men, / Number / Fanatics tell me they consist o', to send 25 or 30,000 Men to pass / above-mentioned Laws.

I must as early as possible acquaint y^e t^e / Informan^t o' my send^g a Factor to Annamaboe to purchase Slaves is a most notorious Falshood as I h^e already proved by / Evidence o' W^m Ponsab before Cap^t Cockburn. I sh^d h^e sent y^e his Attestation herewith if he had come here yest^r as he

promised. But I can easily find out & by / Bristol & Liverpool Capts who trade in / Road o Annamaboe Mr Tongue o Bristol can acquaint y^e how we sold Slaves to his Ships, & ev^y Captⁿ can acct f^r the beg dear when they are scarce & much wanted. All Facts o t^h kind can be pretty well cleared up at home, wth my huntg f^r Proofs o Negatives in / Coast where after I h^{ave} done all I can, in few Instances can I get Proofs absolutely unexceptionable

It is a v^{ery} uncertain Conjecture by wh^{ich} this Letter goes & therefore I do not chuse enlarg^e upon Matters

I h^{ave} now my sincere & grateful Acknowledgments to make to / Lords o Trade & to y^e f^r / Candour & / Humanity o th^{is} & y^r Proceedgs towards me. I know / only Way in wh^{ich} I can shew a True Sense o my Obligations to y^e is by a steady Adherence to my Duty, & t^h Acts not Words, must express my Character I am - &c -
Thomas Melville

Cape Coast Castle
Octob. 30 1752

P.S. Since writg / above I hear Possiter, is arrived at Dixcove

Endorsed

"Letter fm Thomas Melville
Esq^r 2 to / Committee
Dated 13th Decem: 1752"

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

A Copy o my last o Oct^r 30th is
inclosed. I expected by this Conveyance to h^{ve} been
able to tell y^e t / Fantees h^d sworn &
given Hostages f / Observance o the late d^{co} to
exclude / French, but t proves a Work o gr^t
Difficulty, by / Oppositiⁿ o John Curramtee &
Coffee Yango who sent the Sons to France by
Mons^r Salvert & took an Oath to keep t Trans-
actⁿ a Secret fm us. They h^{ve} by the Emis-
saries, spread a Report t / French are bringg
3,000 Beandies or £24,000 to distribute am^g
/ Fantees & beg o them to ~~do~~ conclude
nothing rashly. They tell us / Moment they
h^{ve} the Sons they h^{ve} done us / French f^r favor,
& in / mean Time will give us all possible
Assist^{ce} in buildg. our Fort. We must be
satisfied wth this till we can get better Terms,
wh^{ch} I still hope Time may bring abt when
they are disappointed by our Rivals.

I am obliged to defer sendg my Answers
to / Charges agst me till / Glory departs
sails, as then I can appeal to some Gentle-
men on / Spot to vouch f what I sh^d ad-
vance, t as little as possible may depend
upon my Authority.

The Terrible is arrived, I have taken out 18 Pipes o Brandy & She is going down to Annama - but to unload as fast as possible, but I am afraid we sh not be able to unload any o them in / Time prescribed, as / Negroes make a little work go vey far.

The Goods in Demand are pretty much / Same they have b. Six months past, Palma Chintz & carved birdg guns much wanted to Leeward

... I am to re -

Thomas Melville

Cape Crab Castle

Decr 13th 1752

Enclosed

"Trade Africa
Observants o / Commee
o / Comp^y
o Merchants tradg to
Africa upon / Conduct o
Mr Melville the Agent
at Cape Coast Castle"
Recd fm / Commee.

Recd } May 28. 1752.
Read }

In / Consideration o Mr Melville's Conduct upon /
Coast, / Committee observe as well as they can
recollect fm Capt Buckle's letter wh^{ch} Lord's^{ps}
were pleased to order to be read to them, & fm
/ Perusal o William's letter to / R^t. Hon^{ble} / Earl
o Halifax, t^{hat} he is accused as follows

1st T he did not himself go on board Capt
Buckle as soon as he arrived.

The Committee cannot think him blam-
able in this instce bec he not only complied
w / Custom o / Coast in sendg his Secretary
w his Compliments to / Captains o his Majes-
ties Ships upon the Arrival, but when he
knew t^{hat} Capt. Buckle expected to see him
on board, he waited upon him immedi-
ately

2^d. T when Capt. Buckle asked him, what
French were do^{ing} at Annamabor? he
seemed by his Answer to be quite ignorant,
f as we recollect it was, "He cd not tell"

The Committee are v^{ery} much
surprized at this Answer, as it

appears by Williams's letter

appears by Williams's letter t
a Correspondence had passed between
them before / Arrival o Capt.
Buckle, in wh Mr Melvil
advises William not to ~~go~~
go on board / French Com-
modore, but as they h no Acct o
this Affair fr Mr Melvil,
they cannot be more part^r
upon this Head

3^d T he refused to attend Captⁿ
Buckle to Annamaboe.

Wth Submission to y^r Lordships
/ Committee humbly apprehend
t Mr Melvil's Refusal to attend
Capt Buckle to Annamaboe
was a prudent Measure; f as
all /^r Forts are under / Direcⁿ
o / Chief o Cape Coast Castle, should
any Disturbance h happened at any
one o them durg his Absce, it m^t h
be o fatal Consequence, & as / Natives
at Annamaboe required an
Hostage f / buildg o / Fort ther,
t is not unlikely but they wd h
insisted upon / Chief Agent, h^d
he be presen^t, wh they think
wd h be by no means proper.

4th That at Christmas last he refused to give / usual Presents to / Cabbocers at Annamaboe.

The Committee sent over such Presents as they were informed were suitable for / Cabbocers &c upon / Coast & doubt not but Mr Melvil has distributed them, but it appears by Williams Letter to / Presents demanded by / Fanties at Christmas had been discontinued for seven years past, & consequently Mr Melvil was not provided for this Demand, but what he hereafter appears to be necessary sh he given as far as / Committee has in its Power.

5^{thly} That by his intercepting / Trade at Cape Coast, he hath alienated / Affections of / Fanties.

It doth not appear by any Advices wh / Committee has received, nor has there been any Complaints from / Seal Traders, & Mr Melvil hath used an undue Influence to prevent any Ships trading at Annamaboe, but they have been entirely at liberty to trade wherever they thought it most for their Interest.

6th they & he had neglected by proper Presents, even when / French were upon / Coast, to endeavour to engage & secure / Natives in Interest o / English.

The Committee are extremely dissatisfied w this Part o Mr. Melvil's Conduct as stated in Williams's letter, but Mr Melvil in his letter o 12th February (a Copy o wh has bn laid before yr Lordships) promises in his next by Captain Buckle to clear up some matters wh he suspects wd be laid to his charge, we hope yr Lordships will allow us to suspend our Judgment till it arrives.

The Committee h no part^r Attachment to Mr Melvil, but fm his Transac^{ns} w / Dutch, fm / Increase o Trade upon / Coast, & fm / quick Dispatch o Ships since his Arrival upon / Coast they believe him to be equal to / Trust reposed in him; they will endeavour to give him proper Instructions fm Time to Time o his future Conduct wh will be always submitted to yr Lordships & wh they hope he will most strictly comply w; Shd he ever presume to act contrary thereto, They will be most ready to pass a just Censure upon him.

All wh is humbly submitted &c

Whitehall July 8th 1752.

Sir I am directed by my Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations to desire of you send me wth / Papers, wh^{ch} / Committee were yesterday directed to lay before / Board, an Acct^t o^f what Acknowledgements h^{ave} at any time b^{een} paid to / Natives at Aitchumah^{ah} f^r / Water³ Place &c. I am - &c. -
John Pownall

William Hallier Esq^r.

Endorsed "This Melvil Xmas 13th 1752
Cape Coast Castle
To John Hale Esq^r Commander
o^f his Majesties Sloop Badger"

Sir As y^e h^{ave} b^{een} present at our late Conference wth / Frontiers on / Subject o^f the Laws f^r excluded / French, I beg y^e will let me know if / follows / Facts consist wth y^er knowledge, & if they do t^{hat} y^e will transmit this letter wth y^er answers to / Committee o^f Merchants trade to Africa or the Secretary Mr. Hallier in London.
Y^e may remember at / Conference I took Notes o^f what passed wh^{ch} I shewed

* note In Adm 1. 1888 - 1751-53, Capt Hales only b^{een} f^r / wth C. to 54 M^{ay} Sept 8 1752 (the last under his name) where he was in search o^f a pirate. There are no reports f^r him abt his visit to / Gold Coast, in this book wh^{ch} covers 1752

to Capt. Colburn & y^e sh. be obliged to y^e if
 y^e will let me know if / followg Passage in
 my Diary o Nov^r 16th consists w y^r Knowledge.
 Present / Deputies o / Towns o Abrah &
 Annamaboe. Appah f Annamaboe sd. The
 Braffoe & Curranteers agreed to give / French
 a Settlement; t John Currantee & Coffee Yango
 hd given Pawns f t Agreem^t, & t these
 Pawns must return before they cld do any Thg.

Abrah answered. Did not Annamaboe
 know t they hd given Pawns when they sent
 here last Month & agreed to / draw & took
 Oz. 8 o Goods besides Brandy? Did not
 John Currantee know t he & his Family
 were in y^e English Pay when he gave /
 Pawns?

No Answer to this.

T. Melvil then asked Quassah (my host)
 George Bannishie & William Ansah if
 ever any othr Family hd ever bn refused
 any one thg fm him since he came into /
 Country.

Answered by all three. Quite / Contrary.

He asked agn, if either he or any one o /
 Council since his Arrival hd ever used
 any Man, Woman or Child belongg to
 Annamaboe ill, & as there were 2 o / Judges
 o Annamaboe & sev^l o / principal People
 present, he desired they wd speak.

They answered, t they never hd accused
 either him or any o / Council.

He asked fur if he hd used them well,
 why all this ~~Rumour~~ Promeness f / French?

Capt Cockburn observed to T. Melvill t
pushing these Questions int^r direct / main
Subject as no Body accused either him or
/ Council.

Capt Cockburn, I h only one Questⁿ to
ask y & I will be answered directly w^t
any more trifl^g, Is John Curranitee f
/ English or f / French?

Upon this Quassah, George Bannizhee, &
William Ansah w / Paynins & Cabocers o
Annamaboe went out to ~~consult~~ consult
ab^t an Answer. When they returned
Appah was directed to say, We are
but Messengers, but we will go to
Annamaboe & br^g y an Answer.

Did not Acrophy / Deputy o Abrah,
tell / Annamaboe People t he was John
near Relan, but t he was so gt a Roque
t he ot to be punished; t it was a Shame
to see Abrah, who hd never received any
Favours fm / English, waitg at Cape
Coast w Sticks in the Hands while /
Annamaboe People w Silver headed Canes
were hesitatg to acknowledge the Mas-
ters who hd made them what they are?

Was not Mr Husbands present when
all this passed?

Did not William Ansah br^g a Man
before y & Mr Husbands to accuse me
last Febr^y at Annamaboe o havg used
him ill, in givg him only a Flask o liquor
wh he sd he threw agst / Wall & broke it.
To this Mr Husbands assented, but did
he acknowledge t Fact before me? Did
he not own f I acted contrary to his
Advice in hearg / People o Annamaboe

at t^e Time at all?

Did I not ask him if ever he knew t^e / Caboceros o Annamaboe hd Clothes here at Christmas, or did he ever remember the com^g here at t^e Season?

Did he not tell y^e last Feby t^e when / French Men o War went to Annamaboe in Feby 1751, John Currantee threatened to cut off the Heads if they offered to go on Shore to settle w^t a letter fm K. George to / Agents at Cape Coast, & h^e ~~g~~ not y^e lately heard him declare t^e he never sd such a Thg?

You are not insensible, Sir, how my Character has suffered by unjust Aspersions wh^{ch} h^e gained too much Credit am^gst Those who h^e not hd / Oppres^s y^e h^e hd to see many othem contradicted, & there-fore I beg an Answer to this letter t^e I may use it in my Justificaⁿ, as I h^e put no Questions except such y^e h^e mentioned / Answers to before at / Publick Table in Mr Hubbards Press. I am &c -
Thomas Mulesil

Cape Coast Castle

Dec^r 13th 1752.

To John Hale Esq, Commander o his
Majestys Sloop Badger.

Endorsed

" Copy
J Hale Commander
o / Badger Sloop
o Warre To Thos
Melvill Esq^r
Dated Cape Coast Castle ..
Dec^r 13 1752

Copy
Fm on board his Majesty Sloop Badger
Cape Coast Road Decem^r 13 1752

Sir I Recd^d yrs o this dat^s days date desir^d
me to let y know if what hd pass'd at / late
Confer^{nces} when I was present, & wh are / Contents
of yr letter fell within my knowledge & Remem^{ber}.
In Answer to wh I must acknowledge them
to be facts & wh surpriz'd me not a little, as
it contradicted everythg I heard when last Feb^y
at Annamaboe. As Capt. Cockburne was pre-
sent at this meetg as well as myself, & w^h
doubt will send to England w^htg t has
pass'd here, I believe thr will be no occaⁿ. f
my givg an answer to evy Ques^{ns} contained
in yr letter, but as, to / latter part o it, in
regard to what pass'd Febr^y last when I was
at Annamaboe I will be as partⁿ as I can.

On / 18th Febr^y last William Ansah
brot a Man, whom I took f a Cabocier, before
Capt^s Buckle, Byron, Wheeler, & myself, who
told us t / Christ⁻mas before, he went up to
Cape Coast, as they hd constantly done at t
time o / Year f this Christ⁻mas Box, & it
allways hd bn / Custom f / Governor o Cape
Coast to give them a Quantity o Liquor f /
Cabociers to drink, & t y only gave him a

Flask o Rum wh Flask as soon as he got
 ont o/ Castle he broke agst ye Wall, wh Mr.
 Husbonds at t time did not Contradict tho
 present. He now says it was not a Customary
 thg to give them Liquor at those times, upon
 wh I may remember at / Publick Table, I told
 him I was g^{tly} surprized he had not Contra-
 dicted / Man when he was tellg us this
 Story, & he shd h told Capt Buckle ~~it~~ t it
 was not a Customary thg f those people to
 come up to Cape Coast at Christmas, much
 more to give them cloths & Liquor.

Mr. Husbonds now says I acted
 quite Contrary to his advice in givg them
 anythg & t he advised I not to hear
 them when they came notwth wh
 advice I did.

Mr. Husbonds told me at Annama-
 boe Feby last t where 1 French Man o
 War in Feby 1751 were at Annamaboe,
 John Curranee threaten'd to Cutt off
 1 Frenchmen's heads if they attempted
 to Settle there wth a letter fr^m K. George.
 Now Mr. Husbonds declares he never
 sd nor heard any such thg, wh I am
 g^{tly} surprized at, tho I think I ot
 not to be surprized at anythg a man
 sh say after what I heard since I h bin
 here. •

I am v^y sensible yr Charader has

- Query What did Husbonds say in his report
 to Roberts & Boteler who were then at
 Succowee? [vide Green's Notebook]

Suffer'd in regard to this Affair & vry unjustly, wh
I am exceedg sorry f, as I am vry well convinc'd
by what I h heard & seen in / late Conferences w h
hd w / Fantees, & y h acted in such a Manner f
good o / Publick as vry honest man ~~would~~ wd
who has his Country at heart. I am - &c -
J Hale.

To Thomas Melvil Esq^r &c &c.

Endorsed

" No 16
French Trade
No 2."

[Enc to Letter
dat June 11, 1752
sup p 697 supra.]

A M^r. Jan Van Voort Directeur General &c
Cape Coast 9 Mai 1752. V.S

Monsieur

Le Comité des Negocians en Afrique
nous mande, qu'information leur a été faite,
qu'en l'année 1749, vous proposâtes à Messieurs
Storkwell & Hubbard, que les personnes employées
au Service des deux Compagnies Angloise &
Hollandoise ne feroient aucun Commerce avec les
Francois sur cette Côte. Si est vrai que vous
aies proposé telle chose, et vous continués
dans les mêmes sentimens, je recevrai vos
propositions la dessus avec beaucoup de plaisir,
& donnerai les mains à un traité pour cette
fin avec toute promptitude, le plutôt que vous
me ferez répondre le plus vous m'obligerez.

Thomas Melvil.

A Mr. Thomas Melvil President du Conseil ^{n.3.} gc.

A la Mine 21 Mai 1752

Monsieur

Nous Sommes bien Surpris a la lecture de Votre agreable de hier comment les Messieurs Stockwell et Husband ont pu informer les Messieurs du Comite de notre proposition pour que faire aucune Commerce avec la Nation Francoise dans un tems que les Messieurs n'ont fait que d'etablir la Commerce avec cette nation dont il y eut souvent trois a quatre Navires en ~~la~~ rade de Cabo Corbe a leur charge et expedition.

Nous protestons de n'en avoir jamais parle ni moins avoir eu des ordres pour faire cette proposition cest pour quoi Je ne saurois faire aucune traite Monsieur a cet egard mais attendre plutot les ordres de mes principaux. gc.

Jan Van Voorst

30th June 1952 discharging with their Staff, Salaries & Pay whichs sent out.

Thomas Melvil	Governor	Committee	resigned	£ 400
William Hasbinder	Chief Agent	Old Co	Ditto	200
Thomas Boteler	Acct ^{nt}	Ditto	made Vice President	200
Charles Young	Councillor	Committee	made Councillor	100
Matthew MacKale	Surgeon	Do	made Acct ^{nt}	200
Joseph Hammer	Secretary	50		86
Andrew Fairquhar	Factor	Committee		80
John Andrews	Do	50	made Secretary	80
Charles Bonville	Do	50	Gone into Mrs Roberts's Employ	80
William Knott	Do	50		40
Thomas Westgate	Do	Committee		80
James Whyte	Do	Do		60
Nathaniel Parlier	Writer	Committee		60
Walter How Moss	Do			40
William Jones	Mustant Writer			100
John Slater	Inspector o / Fortns	Committee		80
David Lamb	Lieutnant o / Guard	Old Co	reduced to £50 p.m.	80
John Clifton	Serisayer	Ditto		80

John Suinger	Gardener	Old Co	discharged or gone	50
Peter Falkenqven	Master of Sick Room	Ditto		50
George Dundas	Corporal		acked to 180 p. am.	26
Francis Elmer	Ditto	Committee		26
William Frasier	Master of long boat			26
	40 Soldiers exclusive of discharged & 5 dead		\$24	1008
	2 Ditto blind upon half Pay		13.10	24
	2 Women		13	24
Cudjoe	Blackmen			3665
	Cabbower & Linguist			100
Fredrick Adoy	Waiter			60
William Anson	Ditto			60
James Hinck	Castle Bomboy			50
George Bannishue	Messenger extraordinary			48
Ebbiney	Warehouse Keepers Servant			24
Yeow	Butler			24
Cudjoe Aoy Ebbiney's Son	Warehouse Keepers Servant			12
				4049

(1 Sawyers Bombay)

Duxbury	Nassau Senior	Governor	1 Serjt	Sumner	6 Soldiers
Succordee	John Hippisley	"	"	"	4 "
Commenda	William Tynacrell	"	"	"	6 "
Winnibah	William Withers	"	"	"	6 "
Atara	William Dares	"	"	[Bombay]	6 "
Prampam	James Whyte	Chief	1 Serjt	—	3 "
Loy	John Thomas	Commandant			
Annamaboe	Christopher Whyte	Governor			
Tantumquerry	Richard Brew				
Whydah	William Desaynes	Governor			

Endorsed Letter fm Liverpool
Dated 15th March 1752
Mr John Harsdman

Address indorse - "Mr Wm Hollier
New Broad street
London"

Liverpool Mar 15. 1752

Mr Wm Hollier

Sir

I h^{ve} yr favour 12 Cw^t & am glad we
are at last clear o/ old African Comp^y &
I hope & wish / present Bill may prove a
good one & advance / Trade & I'm perswaded
it will, but I would beg what ever Steps are
taken t^y yr Comm^{tee} woud persist in th^e
former Orders not to suffer Trade w/ French
at / Forts f^r I find Melvil still persists
in it beg right to allow it, but if it be

we sh^d be Clamorous fm wth Quarter & we see
 th^{at} are not want^{ing} People wth in P^r who
 would be glad o any Opp^s to alter our Scheme
 to a Joint Stock agn. I think th^{at} never was
 so good a Prospect f^r yr Trade as now (w^{ould}
 yr India Ind^a Comp^y but supply Goods) as
 we h^{ave} such good Prices all over America as I
 never knew except in War & I hope may
 continue some Years.

9am - 4c -

John Hardman

Sealed Copy, marked "Duplicate" o/ Order
 in Council dd 28th May 1752. signed
 W. ~~W~~ Sharpe [vide copy in Green n book]
 re buildg / Fort at Annamaboe.

Council Office

3^d June 1752

Mr Sharpe sends herewith / Order o
 Council abt buildg a New Fort at
 Annamaboe -

The Fee f^r this Order is £3:2:6.

Office o Ordnance

Tower 25th July 1752

Sir I h^{ere} rec^d / Surveyor Gen's Commands
 to Signify to y^e E/ Engineer intended f^r /
 Service o yr Co is just arrived in London
 & any day except next Fryday / Surveyor

Gen & /st Engineer will wait on / Co upon
y^r letter / Surveyor Gen knows what day &
time will be most agreeable; please to
address y^r letter to him at Berkeley Square
I am - &c -

Leaffreison Miles

W^m Hollier Esq^r

Endorsed

"Whitehall

July 1st 1752

John Pownal Esq^r

was an Opinion o /

Board o Trade for

the Minutes 26 June 1753

Note. This Opinion o / Board o Trade

is put among / Papers in 1763, wth

Letters fm / Admiralty Board o Trade

&c "

Whitehall July 1. 1752.

Gentlemen I am directed by my Lords Com-
missioners of Trade & Plantations to send y /
inclosed Sketch o Observ^{ns} & Instr^{ns} pre-
pared by the Lordships of y^r Use & Informⁿ
containing the Lordships Sentiments upon / late
Transac^{ns} o Mr Mellicil & / sev^l Complaints o
his Conduct wh h^{ve} been transmitted; to wh they
desire y will make such Add^{ns} as sh^{ll} appear
to y to be necessary & proper in / present
Situaⁿ o Affairs. I am - &c -

John Pownall

Gentlemen o / Commee o

Merchants Traff to Africa

[N.B. attached to/above letter is/ follows:-]

Endorsed "Petition to Parliam^t
 of leave to build a
 Fort at Annamaboe"

To / Honorable / Commons of Gr Britain in
 Parliam^t assembled.

The Petition of Committee of Co^s
 Merchants trading to Africa
 Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioners have laid before
 this Honorable House / A acct of Expenditure
 of £10,000 granted by / Year 1751 audited by
 / Curritors Baron of / Exchequer as required
 by / Act for extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa.

That your Petitioners have been informed
 of some Attempts made by our Powers to settle
 upon / Gold Coast of Africa, that it is an indis-
 pensable Duty to represent in / humblest
 Manner to his Majesty & to the Excellencies
 / Lords Justices / absolute Necessity of re-
 building / Fort at Annamaboe as well for
 Satisfaction of Natives who desired it as for
 Preservation of valuable Branch of Trade, so
 imp^t to this Kingdom & of his Majesties
 American Colonies

That the Excellencies / Lords Justices

[See doc incomplete]

Sketch of Observations & Instructions prepared by
/ Right Hon^{ble} / Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plan-
tations & / Use & Informant of Committee of / Co^mmer-
chants trading to Africa, containing their Lordships
Sentiments upon / late Transac^{tions} of Mr Melville &
/ several Complaints of his Conduct which have been
transmitted.

The Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations
in order to prevent any ill Consequences that may
arise to / British Interest on / Gold Coast from a
neglect of Friendship & good Understanding, which
always to subsist between / Chief Agents or Servants
of Committee, & / most considerable Natives or Cabo-
cheers of / Fantee Country, do earnestly recom-
mend it to / Committee of Merchants trading to Africa

That they wd take / earliest Opportunity of representing
in / strongest Manner to Mr Melville, & / Preserva-
tion of / Affections of Natives is an Object of / highest Impe-
tance to which it is his Duty to direct his best Endeavours
& to any System founded on contrary Maxims
is equally dangerous & absurd, for / Trade can
only be carried on by means of Natives, & as /
sole Territory which occupies this is held of them at an
annual Rent, common Prudence must suggest /
Danger that wd be a our loss both shd / Natives
no longer find this best in Commerce wth us.

But to prevent / Possibility of Mr Melville's enter-
taining a Doubt what his Conduct in this Part^{icular}
shd be, / Instructions of Committee, / Sense of /
Legislature & / ~~the~~ universal Opinion of Pub-
lick will serve as a sure Rule to it.

That / cultivating / good Will of Natives
shd be an invariable Maxim, for there are /
strongest Reasons why & late it shd have been att-
ended to wth more than common Assiduity &
Attent^{ion}. / repeated Attempts of French to
seize this, which has been once at least defeated by the
a Spirit founded in Gratitude for Favors
received wth at once he pointed out to Mr Melville
/ necessity of preserving / Affections of Natives, & /
Means of doing it effectually.

At a time when / exclusive Right o gr Britain to / Trade at Annamaboe was / Subject a universal Discourse, when His Majesty at a gr Charge was sendg out Ships o War to main- tain t Right, & when / Committee was makg Ap- plican to His Majesty t they m^t be enabled to build a Fort f / more effectual Preservan o it; / Committee cd not doubt but t Mr Melvill, th^r Chief Agent upon / Coast was ^{at} co-operatg w them towards / Attainmt o / imp^t End in View, by pursu^g / most prudent & con- ciliatg ciliatg Methods o pacg / Chief Cabo- cheers o t Place firmly in / British Interest.

T such beg / Expectans / Committee hd o Mr Melvill's Conduct in a Crisis o so imp^t & delicate a Nature, they were not less surprized than concerned to hear, t instead o strengthen^g & im- prov^g an Interest w / Fantees & prepar^g agst any future Attempts / French shd make, by pursu^g such Measures as a common degree o Policy m^t h suggested, he hd as imprudently as unfortunately involved himself in Dis- putes w them, by wh he hd alienated th^r ~~the~~ Affairs fm / British Interest. T when some o / Chief Cabochers o / Fantees were at Cape Coast at Christmas last complaining (am^g o chgs) t Mr Melvill stopp'd w^y Merchant Ship at Cape Coast, not suffer^g them to come to Annamaboe, wh was Ruin to / Fantees, he treated them contemptuously, dismiss^g them w four Gallons o Brandy only. T he denied them / usual Presents, & bid them go home & plant Cotton; all wh Behaviour so exasperated them t they resolved never to go to Cape Coast more.

T / Committee is informed t / Fantees told John Corraantee, when / French were at Annama- boe, t / ofensiv ill Treatmt o them at Christ- mas by Mr Melvill was / Reason o th^r gr^g

/ French Liberty to build & trade w them.

T / Committee is likewise informed by Captain Buckleys Letter to / Secretary o / Admiral to whom he was off Cape Coast he had desired Mr Melvil wd inform him what these French Ships o War (f he cd see them) were doing in Annamaboe Road; & Mr Melvils Answer was he cd not tell, t they hd bn there eight or ten Days, t he hd heard / Phantee People were to go on board / French Commander Incht m3, to sign a Paper to give / French Liberty f a Piece o Ground to build a Fort upon, but he believed / Comg o / English Ships wd prevent it. T when Captain Buckleys asked Mr Melvil if he wd go along w him to Annamaboe, he objected to go himself, & sd if he went they wd expect him to go there upon w f Parlarnde or Meetg.

T by Mr Williams Letter to / Earl o / Halifax, / Committee is informed t when Mr William was a View to defeat / Designs o / French, sent to Mr Melvil f some liquors to gain / Affections o / Fantees & likewise f Powder, Mr Melvil chof proper to send only one Bottle o Brandy abt three Gallons, & abt a quarter o a Barrel o Powder, wh was not enough to load / Guns. T John Corranter ordered Mr William to send it back to Cape Coast, & to tell / Governor it was a Shame to use / English so, especially at this time when / French were overpowerg / Fantees w Brandy & o^r Presents in order to alienate the Affections fm them; but t Mr William did not think it prudent to send it back agn, to avoid / Reproaches wh / Fantees m^t cast upon / English.

T it has also bn objected to Mr Melvil, t / private Traders cannot slave the Ships at Cape Coast by sell Pounds P. Head so cheap as they h formerly done by tradg w / natives, & t Mr Melvil has raised / Price o Slaves at Annamaboe to / Prejudice o / private Trader by sendg down a Factor to Annamaboe expressly w t Design.

The foreg^d Articles o Charge arise out o Letters & or authentic Evidence & Informaⁿ wh has bn laid before / Lords Commissioners f Trade & Plantns, & the Lordships think it the Duty to state them truly fully to / Committee, for a regard to / immediate & imp^t Interest wh / Publick has in / Preservⁿ o / British Territory, & Influence upon / Coasts o Africa & they do expect t / Committee will acquaint Mr Melvill therewith, & represent to him, t if after a due Examinaⁿ o / Facts & his Answer he sh appear to h bn guilty o / Charges alledged, he is unworthy o / Trust reposed in him: But as Mr Melvill has in his Letter to / Committee, dated / 14th o March last^o given an Acc^t o his Conduct & Proceed^g bⁿ / time he received Advice o / French Fleet begⁿ upon / Coast to / time o the Departure, w^{ch} diff^t & contradictory, to what appears from Cap^t Buckles & Mr Williams Letters & has endeavour^d to give a v^d diff^t Colour to jⁿ Part^s o his Conduct wh h bn objected to, the Lordships will suspend the Judgment upon / Facts until they h received Mr Melvills part^l & full Answer to each distinct Article wth / Proofs, wh it is expected by the Lordships he will transmit o / Truth o such Facts as he sh urge in his Justification. And the Lordships do desire t / Committee wd acquaint Mr Melvill, as far as he has neglected / Friendship o / Natives at Annamaboe & given them cause f Jealousy, Distrust & discontent, partly in / present Critical Conjunction, he has counteracted / National Purpose, & / Object / Committee h hd in View. And t if his Conduct has bn / Occasⁿ o or instrumental to / Reception / French h lately found on / Coast, he has not only proved himself highly improper to be continued in his present Post, but t he is answerable to / Committee & to / Publick f any Mischiefs t has arisen or may arise from so preposterous a Conduct. They are sorry to observe t it appears by his own Letters t his Conduct has given Uneasiness to / Fantees; & t instead o lament^g so unfortunate a Circumst^e in / present Conjunction, he rather speaks o it wth Satisfaction & Content, & so far from regret^t / loss

Cabocheers /

o the Friendship, he seems to triumph in /
Crosses & Disappointments. T such Sentiments are
wholly abhorrent fm / Principles on wh it was his
Duty to act & give additional Weight to /
Articles o Charge agst him f neglectg / National
Interest at Annamaboe.

Tas to his having bid / Fantee / ~~Cabocheers~~ go home
& plant Cotton, / Charge is / more probable, as it is
well known to be one o Mr Melville's Projects,
his undertaking o wh at Authority, / Board o Trade
& / Committee (in the letters to him) he dis-
countenanced. T it has bn long known t / Cli-
mate & Soil o Africa may be productive o many
Valuable Branches o Commerce, but t it had never
hitherto bn determined by / Legislature t such
Produce shd be encouraged, & t Industry & Ag-
riculture shd be promoted in a Country / Value
o wh to Europe has hitherto arisen fm its Ignorance
& Sloth. T a problematical Point o this Conse-
quence is not to be determined by / Authorities
o Mr Melville. But if a new System o this
sort was ever so well founded in Policy, & sup-
ported by Authority, it wd be highly impro-
udent to enter on it in so rash a Manner &
at so nice a Crisis, at / Expense o / Friendship &
Affection o / Natives, by whose assistance only we cd
expect to defeat / French, & forward / British
Purposes at Annamaboe.

T what Mr Melville's Opinion may be o
drawing / Trade fm Annamaboe to Cape Coast,
f / Consequence o such an Attempt was likely to
be productive o / Displeasure o / Fantees, he
was highly blameable in makg it; f Motives
o private & temporary Advantage o least o all
to take place when they clash w National &
permanent Interests

T if it sh be proved t Mr Melville's
Behaviour to / Fantees was / Reason assigned
& / true one, f / favourable Recepⁿ they gave

/ French, as a Servant to them, & a Subject of Gr Britain, he is to answer it.

It sh^d / Answers given by Mr Melvill to Captain Buckle, as stated by Captain Buckle, prove true, it is evident, either t Mr Melvill was wholly ignorant o or unconcerned ab / French Transactions on / Coast, or t he was unwilling to give / necessary Informⁿ to / Commander of His Majesty's Ships; & if it sh be proved t he has either bn negligent o / Measures he m^t h^{ve} taken to reconcile / Parties o Annamaboe to / English Interests, & defeat / Designs o / French; or if he sh be proved to h concealed fm Captain Buckle / Knowledge he hd o what was carryg on at Annamaboe, too heavy a Charge cannot attend him.

It / Committee are o Opinion, t if Mr Melvill did make / Excuse f not gog w Captain Buckle to Annamaboe, wh Captain Buckle alledges he did, vizt, t if he did go they wd expect him to go thr upon evy Parliament or meetg, it was a trifflg & suspicious one, & has a strong Tendency to prove his Disregard o / British Interests, & / Success o / French Design o establishg themselves on / Coast. It is an Absurdity to suppose t Mr Melvill's Appearance at Annamaboe on so imp^t an Occasⁿ, wherein His Majesty's Rights, & / Welfare o / Trade were so essentially concerned, & possibly he drawn into Precedent f his frequent appearing thr on evy Parliament or meetg. If this part o Charge be true this seems to be but one honest Reason to be assigned f so x^{tra} a Conduct, & t a disadvantageous one to Mr Melvill's Character as Chief Agent, vizt, t he was conscious t he hd so offended / Parties Fanties t he thot his Pres^{ence}, or even his inter-
being in / least, when / French were on / Coast,

would be productive o more Harm than Good, & t/
Person who had bn calculatg / Ruin o / Fantees wou
not / proper Person to solicit the Friendship a
a time o so imminent Danger.

T if it sh be proved t Mrs Melville, who
earnestly pressed by Mr William to send some
Liquor to Annamaboe (/ French beg at t time
tho) to gain / Affections o / Fantees, & likewise some
Powder, sent only one Bottle o Brandy, & only
a Quarter o a Barrel o Powder, it must neces-
sarily result fm such Proof t Mrs Melville has
in this Instce bn guilty o a most notorious &
insolent Breach o Duty in not only havg neg-
lected to send such a Present o Liquor as
was likely to preserve / Fantees in / English
Interest, & a Quantity o Powder sufficient f /
Uses f wch it was asked, but in havg sent
so small a Quantity o each as implied Scorn
& Contempt instead o Friendship f /
Fantees & a Desire o Keepg / French fm / Coast.

T / Committee in any part^r or gen In-
structions they may h given Mrs Melville f his
pursu^g a System o Economy & dealg on^{ly}
the Stores wth Caution & Thiftness co never be
understood to mean t in a Time o such Danger
to / English Interest & Trade on / Gold Coast, /
Chief Agent o / Committee shd refuse a demand
Supply o Liquor & Powder demanded f so
national a Purpose. The Committee are ashamed
to hear t / consequence o this ill-timed ~~System~~
Economy was t Mrs William, actuated by a
Principle o Gratitude to provide f / English Interest
in a Manner it was Mrs Melville's Duty to be
done, generously sold two o his Slaves, &
havg purchas'd two Pipes o Rum one o 115,

10th 113 Gallons, distributed them Daily am^g
 / Phanties in order to quell as much as pos-
 sible the tumultuous Riot, beggrieved to ~~the~~
 think / English shd be like to lose the Right.

Wth Regard to / charge agst Mr Melville
 f havg made / Private Traders pay a gter Price
 f Slaves than he ot to h sold them at, / Commit-
 tee will not fail making strict Enquiry into t
 Matter. If he has presumed to send a Factor
 to Annamaboe wth an Intent to raise / Price o
 Slaves upon / private Trader, he has acted in
 a most ~~improper~~ unjustifiable manner;
 abhorrent fm / Principles on wh / late Act
 o Parliamt^{nt} was founded, as it tends directly
 to / Raising a Monopoly, wh it was / Chief
 Inten^{on} o / Legislature to abolish.

T / Committee do by / first Oppy acquaint Mr
 Melville t / Lords Commissioners f Trade & Plantas
 havg taken / aforesd Matter into the mature Con-
 siderat^{on}, are o Opinion, t if he sh^d appear to be Guilty
 o what is laid to his charge, he is unworthy to
 hold any Employ^{mt} what^{er} under / Committee &
 deserves / severest Censure. T^{he} Lords hips, how^{ev}
 fm a Motive o Tenderness to Mr Melville's Char-
 acter & Fortune, havg heard t he is desirous o re-
 turning to England, in order to concert certain
 Matters w / Committee, h^d proposd t he shd
 h leave to come home where he m^t not only
 execute such Business as he thinks necessary
 to transac^t w / Committee, but likewise Answer
 / Articles o Charge exhibited agst him. T^{he}
 upon / Committee's Representat^{on} to the Lord-
 ships t it wd be injurious to the Affairs if Mr
 Melville was at present orderd Home, the Lord-
 ships desirous o shewing a Regard to the
 Interests & Opinions as far as they thot them-

selfs enabled to do it consistently w / publick
Welfare, he consented to Mr Melville shd
not be ordered Home till he had given full &
explicit Answers to my Article o / aforesd
Recusation wh the Lordships expect & require
him to do & to transmit / same w / most
authentick Proofs o what he sh alledge in his
Justifican w fail by / first Oppy. Upon
this express Condiⁿ however, t as it appears to
Mr Melville's letters, an Authority, wh in
present Case yr [sic] Lordships may safely
abide by, he has acted on a System de-
structive o / Interest & consequently / Friend-
ship o / Fanters, he shd no longer be en-
trusted w / Managem^t o / British Interest
& Trade at Annamaboe; f the Lordships are
o Opinion t when / Gov in consequence o an
Applicaⁿ o / Committee, has given Saneⁿ to
/ freeⁿ o a Fort at Annamaboe, / Success,
/ Success & / Expediⁿ o wh must depend upon
/ Assistance, Alacrity & Confidence o / Planties,
/ Direcⁿ o so imp^t a Work wd be ill
placed in / Hands o one who seems so far
to h mistaken his Duty as to think he has
Merit in havg disoblidg them.

T wh Reason the Lordships agree
w / Proposal o / Committee t Mr Melville
shd h no Concern whate in / Managem^t
o / British Affairs at Annamaboe, T
some o^r proper Person shd h / Command
thr, / Care o / Trade & / Superintendce o
/ Fort to be vested by an Engineer to be
sent fm England.

T if / National Interest on / Coast did
not render a Regulam o this Sort

necessary, wh it most indubitably ~~does~~ does, yet
 a due Regard to / Fiances o / Committee wd
 sufficiently recommend it to the Lordships, as
 it wd probably cost a lger Sum to re-instate
 Mr Melville in / Opinion o / People whom he
 appears to be disoblged, than wd be necessary
 to make some Progress in / Buildg o / Fort under
 / Direcm o a Person who labours under no
 such Disadvantage.

T Mr Melville be directed to return /
 Thanks o / Committee to John Corranter f /
 Regard & Attachm^t he manifested f /
 British Interest in havg withstood / French
 attempt to settle at Annamaboe, Last Year,
 f / Endeavours he used to prevent / or
 Cabochers fm Engagg in / Interest o /
 French when they were last upon / Coast;
 & f his havg promised to his Assistce to
 / English in / rebuildg o / Fort. Preparatⁿ
 f wh Work is now making in England w
 all possible Expediⁿ

T Mr Melville be likewise directed to
 return / Thanks o / Committee to Mr William
 f his gratefull prudent & indefatigable
 Conduct when / French were last upon /
 Coast; & f / Generous Proof o his Zeal f /
 English Cause in havg sold two o his
 Slaves to purchase Rum wh he distributed
 amng / Phanties. And t Mr Melville be
 directed, at / same time t he returns Mr
 William / Thanks o / Committee, to repay

him / full Value o / two Slaves be sold toward
/ Support o / English Interest & Credit at
Annamaboe.

↑ / Committee direct such Person as
they sh think most proper to conduct / Brit-
ish Interest at Annamaboe to repair
thither as soon as possible & to enter upon /
most effectual Measures f / regaining /
Affectⁿ o / Planters & establishing / British
Interest on / surest Foundⁿ.

↑ Mr Melville be also directed & required
to comply w any Request wh / Person who
Tog^r w / Engineers ~~it~~ is to be / Care o
building / Fort at Annamaboe sh find
it necessary to make f Stores & Supplies o
any sort f carrying on t Work provided
such Request be made in Writg & signed
by both / sd Persons.

The Lords Commissioners o Trade &
Plantations do not recommend / aforesd
Direc^{ns} as a complete Set o Instructions
containing t Variety o Matters wh may be
proper to be transmitt^d by / Committee to
the Agent. They be however proceeded as far
as / Shortness o Time & / Interrupⁿ given by
o^r ~~Business~~ Business wd allow. What they be
suggested they think Essential to / Publick
Service & therefore expect / Committee will
punctually transmit these Direc^{ns} to the Agent
w such Addit^{ns} as / Committee sh judge neces-
sary f / Welfare o / Trade & / Security o /
National Interest on / Coast o Africa.

Whitehall July 4th 1752.

Gentlemen
 My Lords Commissioners of Trade
 & Plantations have under the Consideration / Papers
 relative to / Disputes between the Agents & those
 of Dutch West India Company upon / Coast
 of Africa. I am directed by the Lordships to
 desire / Favour of your Attendance thereupon at the
 Board on Tues next / y^e Instant, & the
 Lordships desire t^h you will bring all such
 Evidence as you can procure either from / Books of
 old Co or otherwise relative to / Points in Dis-
 pute & partly t^h you will enquire who any.
 Acknowledgments h^{ave} at any time been paid
 to / Natives at Commerada or
 Achemmah & if any, upon what Acct these
 acknowledgements h^{ave} been made I am - &c -

John Pownall

Committee of Co^o
 Merchants trading to Africa

Liverpool July 24th 1752.

Sir

Some o/ Gentlemen o/ African Committee has^d
told me a few days before I left London t they design'd
to build / Fort Intended at Annamaboo w/ Earthen
Walls they desired t I wd give them a Sketch o a
Frame o Such a Buildg I h therefore in Compliance,
w the desire sent y / Instruct [no 2] by wh the
y will perceive t I am but a v^y bad Draughts man
yet I hope any tradesman will be able for
what is the laid down, be able to make such
a Frame. I think to be in London in less
than a Month hence & if t is not out o time &
Gentlemen o/ Committee think proper I sh
give directions o making such a frame & make
/ Experiment o Buildg a pie^e o Wall w it
by wh they may be able to Judge how it
will do.

Th^{is} is no need o any Directions for me either
w regard to / Materials or / method o Workg
Black Mould is best Sand is a Mixture o a
Tenth part earth will make a strong Wall but
it will not stand / Weather unless it be
plaster'd w Lime. Clay will not do at all.
The Cos Slaves understand / Work well enough
& h^d build a good deal in t way before I left
/ Country. Th^{is} will be need only o a Few
Tradesmen to put up & take down / Frames, as f
/ Rest o/ Wall work can be performed by any
Common Labourers. . . . I am - &c -

Thomas Chalmer

Mr Will^m Hollis

[Sec. o/ Committee o/ Co o Merchants
trading to Africa]

Minutes of Committee of Co of Merchants trading
to Africa, 12th August 1752

Mr Apperley attended w a Plan & Estimates
of Fort to be built at Annamaboe from whence
it appeared to Committee t/ Freight of so lge
a Number of Bricks as therein mentioned wd
vastly exceed Sum proposed, & having been well
assured t Bricks may be made upon Coast
of Inner Work, it was therefore,

Resolved, t a Number not exceedg Two
hundred thousand Bricks be now sent . . .
26th August 1752

Mr Apperley / Engineer bego opinion t it was
absolutely necessary to send 400,000 Bricks
w Lime, Timber &c immediately it was therefore
resolved to Contract for following Ships at / respect-
ive Rates & Terms hereafter mentioned
... [names of 5 ships]

And orders given for following quantities of Bricks
vizt. ... [Total 400,000] ...

[End of T. 40. 1518

T 40 1519 begun in next Notebook
at p 425]