

Enclosed "Thomas Melis's letter  
 to / Committee  
 Dated 4<sup>th</sup> 11 March 1753  
 Fantee Treaty"

To / Committee o / Co o Merch's tradg to Africa  
 Gentlemen

By this Conveyance, / Glory Man o War, y  
 will receive / Books & Accts o / Expence o these Forts  
 fm Janry to June 1752.

I send y a Copy o a letter I wrote to Cap<sup>t</sup>  
 Cotburne abt / Dutch Negroes o Mowree detaining  
 two black Men belongg to Mr Carruthers o / Angle-  
 sea Snow o Liverpool, & demandg an exorbitant  
 Sum f. havg saved them. The St Albans is  
 now in Mowree Road to prevent / Negroes o t  
 Place fm fishg till they agree to what we h. of-  
 fered, wh. is ten Times more than I suffered our  
 People to take fm them in a similar Case. The  
 Dutch want to keep up / Distinc<sup>n</sup> betw<sup>n</sup> Co &  
 Interlopers. The Gen says, he wd. interfere if it  
 was an Affairs o / Committee's but cannot f  
 an Interloper. I cannot admit his Distinct<sup>n</sup>  
 contrary to Act o Parliam<sup>t</sup>.

I expect Bruce w<sup>l</sup> Day, t I may be able to  
 know by Experience / Pay necessary f subsistg a  
 Gambia Slave in this Country. I sh. make out  
 / Estimate ab. y desire. Our contingent Ex-  
 pences occasioned by / Attempts o / French  
 will be o y ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> this Year, but if they answer  
 / proposed End. I hope no Body will grudge  
 them

The Store-Ships at Annamaboe, / Albania  
 & new Parham, are almost unloading & ballasted. We  
 h. abt 100 free Labourers fm John Curranter,  
 Coffee Yango, & Appah, besides free Canoe-men  
 employed at daily Wages. So I hope Care will  
 be taken to send / necessary Supplies. Abt  
 one thousand Pounds Goods at prime Cost  
 are already gone upon Acct o Annamaboe  
 exclusive o Salaries

I wish our not having / Agreement made w<sup>th</sup> /  
 Tradesmen may not occa<sup>n</sup> Confus<sup>n</sup>. They are a  
 dissolute Set, 'tis impossible to keep them  
 always sober, they lately quarrell'd w<sup>th</sup> / Blacks;  
 wounded some, & some o' them were wounded  
 likewise. This is dangerous Work in our present  
 Circumstances. They sh<sup>d</sup> be under such Covenants  
 t<sup>h</sup> we may lawfully punish them when they  
 deserve it, o<sup>r</sup> wise we had better be w<sup>th</sup> them.  
 Killg a Black in the Drunkenness may in-  
 danger / Lives o' w<sup>r</sup> Body at Annamaboe. I  
 give / Tradesmen Provisions & necessaries to  
 Acc<sup>t</sup>. till I know fut<sup>r</sup>.

Trade has b<sup>en</sup> pretty brisk lately at  
 Annamaboe, but, fm / g<sup>t</sup> Number o' Ships,  
 Slaves h<sup>av</sup> b<sup>en</sup>, & are, dear.

The Leeward Fantees are here on a Pro-  
 posin<sup>n</sup> to deny / French Water at Amissa  
 w<sup>th</sup> Perm<sup>is</sup>ion fm us. I sh<sup>d</sup> write of / Result in  
 my next.

There has b<sup>en</sup> v<sup>y</sup> little Variation in /  
 Goods in Demand since my Arrival, only  
 Patna Chintz & carv'd bird<sup>d</sup> Guns h<sup>av</sup> b<sup>en</sup>  
 much wanted o' late. Send no more green  
 half Sags, nor Damis Guns nor Muskets till  
 matters alter, let all / Guns in / next Supply  
 be bird<sup>d</sup> Guns & not above 400.

If I have omitted any Th<sup>g</sup> in this  
 Letter attribute it to / Hurry I h<sup>av</sup> b<sup>en</sup> in f<sup>r</sup> some Time

Cape Coast Castle  
 March 11<sup>th</sup> 1753.  
 I am - r -  
 Thomas Melvil

P.S. It will ~~be~~ always be proper to send ab<sup>o</sup>  
 100 Iron bound half Hog<sup>s</sup> do am<sup>g</sup> / o<sup>r</sup>  
 Castles full o' Corn Brandy. They are  
 necessary to send to / our Forts

Endorsed

"Thos Melvil Letter  
to George Cockburne Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Dated y<sup>e</sup> 21 Feb<sup>r</sup>y 1753"

Cape Coast Castle Feb<sup>r</sup>y 21. 1753

Sir  
Sometime ago a Boat belongg to / Angle-  
sea Snow o Liverpool Mr James Carruthers  
Mast<sup>r</sup> w two white Men & two Negroes was  
overset off Mowree Fort & / People carried on  
Shore by / Fishermen o t Place.

Mr Carruthers has got back his white  
Men, but / two Negroes (who are / Sons o two  
Cabbocers to Wundward whom he has engaged  
to carry to England) are still detain'd, tho' I h  
used my utmost endeavours to get them  
restord. At first / Mowree people demanded  
Eight Ounces o Goods f each, as they say say-  
ing said fm y Sea is / Gift o God, now they  
ask Twelve Ounces & an Anker o  
Brandy f / two.

I represented to them t within these ten  
Months a Connoe belongg to / Chief o Mowree  
w four Negroes & three Rolley o Tobacco, over-  
sett off this Castle, / People & Tobacco were  
saved by our Fishermen, who carried them to  
Mowree & restord them f less than one Ounce  
o Goods, & therefore they h no Right to demand  
a gr<sup>r</sup> Sum than they paid in a Similar Case.  
In answer to this they endeavour to distinguish  
betw interlopers & / Co, tho' I h assured them t  
there is now no Founda<sup>n</sup> f such a distinc<sup>n</sup>.

I must beg, Sir, t y will interfere in this  
Affair & procure us Justice fm / Chief & People  
o Mowree, in / way y judge most Effectual<sup>l</sup> f  
t purpose I am - &c -

To George Cockburne Esq<sup>r</sup> T. M.

872.

Endorsed "Thos Melvil to  
/ Committee  
Cape Coast y<sup>e</sup> 13 March 1753"

To / Committee of Co<sup>o</sup> Merchants trad<sup>g</sup> to Africa  
Gentlemen I thro' by this Oppy I sh<sup>d</sup> be bn able  
to h<sup>ve</sup> sent y<sup>e</sup> / Eastern Fantees Recogniz<sup>n</sup> o<sup>r</sup> our  
Right but cannot get it executed in Time.  
These People are more numerous than /  
Fantees w<sup>h</sup> whom Annamaboe is connected.  
A Scheme was laid by John to beg them into  
his Views to suffer a French Fort in the  
Country, since he cd not procure one at Anna-  
maboe. But on Consult<sup>g</sup> / Priests they were  
ordered here to ratify what had already bn  
concluded w<sup>th</sup> / Fantees. By this Deed /  
French can h<sup>ve</sup> no Water of the Ships, nor  
lime to build, w<sup>th</sup> our Permiss<sup>n</sup>. I sh<sup>d</sup> be more  
explicit when I send / Paper & am - k -  
Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle  
March 13<sup>th</sup> 1753

Endorsed. "Thos Melvil letter  
to / Committee  
March y<sup>e</sup> 14 1753"

To / Committee of Co<sup>o</sup> Merchants trad<sup>g</sup> to Africa,  
Gentlemen. In my letter o/ 11<sup>th</sup> Curr<sup>t</sup>. I told  
y<sup>e</sup> E / Deputies o/ Acomfee Fantees were here  
upon a Propos<sup>n</sup> o<sup>r</sup> recogniz<sup>n</sup>g our Right to the  
Country & o<sup>r</sup> exclud<sup>g</sup> / French fm water<sup>g</sup> at  
Amisga.  
The Acomfees & / Bura, Bura Fantees, who  
recogniz<sup>d</sup> our Right on / sixth Feb<sup>o</sup> were

originally / same People. But now they h two  
Brabbers (or Staat holders) & two Sets o Cur-  
rantees or Senators. They are neither  
under / same Circumstances in Point o Union  
as / Switzers & / Grisons, nor as / United  
Provinces o Holland. I call the Connexion  
a foederal Union b want o a better express  
Expression. It is a Union founded on  
Manners, Customs & Religion, b they are  
under / same Subje<sup>n</sup> to / Father (or  
God) o Fantee as / Western Fantee are.

After / Recogni<sup>n</sup> o / Sixth o Februy,  
John Curranter sent to them to know if  
they had ever bin applied to b a Law to  
exclude / French<sup>n</sup> bin settl<sup>g</sup> in the Country.  
They answered no. He then offered them  
liquor, & desired them to conclude a Bar-  
gain w him b a Spot o Ground to build  
a French Fort, & he wd engage t / stipu-  
lated Sum shd be paid on / Arrival o /  
next Men o War bin France. The Reason  
he gave them b this Proceed<sup>g</sup> was, t / late  
Law had debarred / French bin build<sup>g</sup>  
at Annamaboe.

On this / Accomps sent to the Father  
b Direc<sup>n</sup>s how to proceed. The Priests  
ordered them to send Deputies directly  
to Cape Coast & ratify what had already  
bin done by / Western Fantees. They  
h done so this 24 Day & if they stand  
to the Engagem<sup>t</sup> / French cannot trade  
b want o Water.

The Expence o this Transac<sup>n</sup> is 54  
Small in Comparison o last the / Accomps  
are more numerous than / Western Fantee,  
but they came by Order. They say they shd  
never h dreamt o com<sup>g</sup> if John

Warrantee had not applied to them, but wd be  
submitted to / former Recogniz<sup>ns</sup>, as / Priests  
bore a Part in it.

Every Thing is v<sup>y</sup> quiet at Annamaboe. The  
White labourers are now almost all sick. I  
never expected much Good from them & this  
is no Country for Europeans to work in /  
I am sure they were Scurvy are Scurvy Men,  
much less of such People as these

I beg o<sup>y</sup> to send Supplies adequate to  
our Expence, for Annamaboe consumes near  
as much one Way or o<sup>r</sup> as all / o<sup>r</sup> Forts.

Cape Coast Castle  
March 14<sup>th</sup> 1753

I am - &c -  
Thomas Melvil

Glory at Spithead <sup>Letter</sup> to / Gen. Cockburne to / Committee  
August 20<sup>th</sup> 1753 } o / Co o Merchants Trade to Africa  
Incloses / Carrier's receipt of a box o papers  
wh I recd from Mr Melvil at Cape Coast & was  
forwarded yest<sup>y</sup>.

Enclosed

"That Melvil Letter  
to / Committee

24<sup>th</sup> April 1753  
April y<sup>e</sup> 24 1753  
Recd y<sup>e</sup> 25 July 1753  
Answer."

To / Committee o / Co o Merchants Trade to Africa.  
Gentlemen Inclosed are Copies o / Fantas Re-  
cogniz<sup>ns</sup> • 4 o / letters I wrote y by his Mays Ship  
Glory. I h received 20 Gambia Slaves by his  
Mays Ship Hind, & 19 by y<sup>e</sup> Sloop Africa, in all  
39. Owh 28 are Men, & 11 Women, Mr Skinner

• Not here, Vide Adm. n. bk.

desired me to pay Cap<sup>t</sup> Nucella / Customary Freight paid to Capt<sup>s</sup> o Men o War on such Occas<sup>ns</sup> but as this never happened a similar Case within my Knowledge I cd do no more than draw on y<sup>e</sup> for Maintenance payable to / Comm<sup>rs</sup> o / V<sup>ic</sup>tually, & leave y<sup>e</sup> to allow Cap<sup>t</sup> Nucella what y<sup>e</sup> think proper f<sup>r</sup> Freight.

The Gambia Slaves promise v<sup>y</sup> well. Twelve Men are put to be Brecklayers, / o<sup>r</sup> to o<sup>r</sup> Trades. They are to be kept here by Mr Cap<sup>t</sup> Perley's Desire, till / Hairs are out, both on Acc<sup>t</sup> o the Health, & t<sup>h</sup> they may know Somethg o / Country before they go to Annamaboe, to prevent / Fantasies f<sup>r</sup> stealg them & sellg them.

One g<sup>t</sup> Reason o dispatchg y<sup>e</sup> Sloop home is to let y<sup>e</sup> know our g<sup>t</sup> want o Tradesmen to build / Fort at Annamaboe, t<sup>h</sup> y<sup>e</sup> may take proper Measures f<sup>r</sup> a Supply.

All / Artificiers who came out w<sup>th</sup> us Mr Apperley is so sick, Three are dead, & he himself has v<sup>y</sup> narrowly escaped, but he is now out o Danger, I beg y<sup>e</sup> will reflect upon our Situa<sup>n</sup>. The National Design is to build a Fort as soon as possible to put an End to / Contest betw<sup>n</sup> us & France.

The Exec<sup>n</sup> o this is intrusted to one Man, if he dies we are at a Stand 'till ano<sup>r</sup> can be got f<sup>r</sup> Europe; f<sup>r</sup> Slater has so little Command o himself, t<sup>h</sup> if I was to send him to Annamaboe I shd expect t<sup>h</sup> his Breaves wd be beat out in less than a Week, f<sup>r</sup> he wd get drunk as soon as he cd, & then he wd quarrel w<sup>th</sup> us I begre t<sup>h</sup> came in his Way; He is a good Workman & does v<sup>y</sup> well to repair / Forts, but is not fit to go where / Negroes are Masters.

To build / Fort at Annamaboe speedily, & to repair / ors wh stand gty in need o it I apprehend, ths is but one effectual Way, & t is by Gambia Slaves f / labourg Part & to h 4 or 5 compleat Tradesmen w good Salaries, not to work themselves, but to oversee / Gambia & teach them how to work. Some o these Men or to be qualified to carry Mr Apperley's Plan into Execu<sup>n</sup> in Case o his Death. Tho at first Sight this may appear more Expensive, yet it is a gr Chance t it may prove / more frugal Scheme. What are all / little Expenses on Shore to / Charge o a Squadron o Men o War?

In constantly supplyg us w Gambia Slaves, Annamaboe will prove a School to breed Tradesmen, who will afterwards put all yr Forts into Repair, & keep them so w a little Charge to y. I say nothing o this sup- portg our Authority on / Coast, bec I h sd enough o t in a former letter.

I beg then t / Africa may be dispatched to Gambia as soon as possible to buy us as many Slaves fm 14 to 20 Years old as she can procure. When they are old they are o us little Use to us as they can neither learn Trades nor English. If / stationed Ships were to beg us some 25 Years it wd be a good measure.

And Reason o dispatchg / Sloop home is to let y know as soon as possible t / French h bn here, & t they declared they wd return in six or eight Months w a Force sufficient to carry ths Scheme o settlg into Execu<sup>n</sup>.

The Annamaboe People are v<sup>y</sup> quiet & contented at present. The Cabovers had Cloths given them when Mr Whytelle went down to succeed Mr Desayney who has resigned. The principal Cabovers w<sup>o</sup> William & Lewis eat constantly w<sup>o</sup> Messrs Apperley & Whytelle, deuis excepted, they are all v<sup>y</sup> good Englishmen, & will continue so till more French Presents arrive.

If it was possible to prevent / French Men o<sup>r</sup> War, fm sending / Co's Agents on Shore ev<sup>y</sup> Year at Annamaboe, it wd be a g<sup>t</sup> Advantage to us; but how t is to be done is not within my Province to determine. The Brandy puts / People mad.

Ev<sup>y</sup> body w<sup>o</sup> be here will be extremely obliged to y for a new Set o<sup>r</sup> Bowls, as those we h<sup>o</sup> are almost wore out by 30 Years play.

We are at present in a v<sup>y</sup> distressed Situa<sup>n</sup> here w<sup>o</sup> Sickness & Guinea Worms, I only h<sup>o</sup> escaped both, Ev<sup>y</sup> Body is recovering.

On / Promos<sup>n</sup> o<sup>r</sup> Mr Whytelle to Annamaboe Mr Andrews was appointed Secretary... No man who knows only his own language is fit to be Secretary here. If tho I understand French yet I cannot venture to write it in any Affair o<sup>r</sup> moment, & if we write English to / Dutch or Danes they will answer us in the own tongue, as unknown to us as Coptick.

A Surgeon is wanted at Annamaboe. The Salary must not be under £100 p<sup>a</sup> Ann. till / Fort is built, or else he will starve, w<sup>o</sup> th<sup>o</sup> be so extravagantly dear at t<sup>e</sup> Place. - As most o<sup>r</sup> Guns at / Outforts are bad, he suggests they be spared fm / Men o<sup>r</sup> War who cd<sup>o</sup> Land them at / Outforts -

My Answer to / Complaints wh h bn made  
 agst me w / Vouchers to prove / matters o Fact  
 alledged by me are gone home w / Glory; so  
 I sh not trouble / any more abt them till I  
 hear from y . . .

I hope Measures are at this time lōk'g  
 f sendg us out a Supply, so I sh say nothing  
 on t Subject.

Goods in Demand: Flowered Cutt anees,  
 Sestra cundees, Allegars, Patna Chintz.  
 Soot Romauls, birdg Guns carved, half  
 Sags fine blue stiched & Gunpowder. Red  
 Bejita pants & Meganne pants India or  
 Manchester all Cottons. In our Supply, 99c  
 Quantities o Cheeks cross bared & Manchester  
 Ships at Annamaboe. Capts. Ellis & Walker  
 o Bristol, Gilbert o / Albinia, & Saunders o  
 Liverpool will all go in less than a month.  
 Cap<sup>t</sup> Youwar<sup>t</sup> o / Hardman o Liverpool &  
 Cap<sup>t</sup> Bartlett o Plymouth w a Brig belong<sup>g</sup>  
 to Messrs Roberts & Co w Cap<sup>t</sup> Boats o  
 Liverpool will remain. Slaves h bn very dear  
 this Year fm / Number o Ships impatient to  
 be gone. . . . In this Road are / Assistance  
 a St Albans Men o War & / Falcon  
 Sloop. I am - re -  
 Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle

April 24<sup>th</sup> 1753.

letter

nB. The follow<sup>g</sup> original<sup>s</sup> is written at / send o  
— / copy o / previous one.

To / Committee o / Co o Merchts tradg to Africa

Gentlemen The above is what I wrote y by yr  
Sloop, this goes by a Dutch Ship bound f  
Amsterdam.

I must still continue to press y to send out  
some People capable o carryg Mr Apperley's  
Plan into Exec<sup>u</sup>m bec Time shews me more  
& more / Expedi<sup>c</sup>y I had almost sd / necessity  
o it. Slavery grows worse & worse, I am afraid  
he must be sent home f there is no keepg him  
Sober f a day

The Demand f Beju<sup>t</sup>a parts begins to  
decline, f / Partly h not by quite shut f  
many Months wh makes Patna Chintz  
& Silk Goods & Pewter Basons much wanted.  
It is strongly reported t / K. o Ashantee is  
dead, what Effect this will h on / Trade  
Time must discover

The Assists<sup>e</sup> o St Albans are now at Channah  
waterg ... I expect them in a few Days.

The Falcon Sloop is at Annamahol. I am - &c -

Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle

May 12<sup>th</sup> 1753.

Endorsed "Cape Coast Castle 30<sup>th</sup> May 1753  
 Thos Melvill Esq<sup>r</sup> Com<sup>d</sup>  
 Copy o his Ltr / 12 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1752  
 o o<sup>r</sup>s to & from Capt  
 Falkner o / St Albans"

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

I write y by y<sup>e</sup> Sloop Africa, & likewise  
 by a Dutchman bound for Amsterdams, o wh  
 last a Copy is inclosed, & I hope y will h both  
 / Originals long before y receive this.

What I h long dreaded is now likely to  
 come to pass. Mr Apperley is so ill t I  
 am affraid we sh lose him, & this / rather  
 as he apprehends he is poisoned, & therefore  
 has his Imagin<sup>n</sup> as well as his Distemper  
 to struggle w. I say his Imagin<sup>n</sup> bec I do  
 not believe him poisoned, t not beg ever  
 attempted, as far as I h heard, on this Part  
 o / Coast. I once indeed heard o a White Man's  
 accusg and<sup>r</sup> o this Crime, but t was only  
 to take off w<sup>y</sup> Body's Attent<sup>n</sup> for as detestable  
 an Attempt o his own, so / poison<sup>g</sup> became  
 a Joke w<sup>n</sup> sworn himself.

What<sup>r</sup> be Mr Apperley's Fate, I beg y will  
 send out three or four Men capable o carryg  
 his Plan into Execu<sup>n</sup>. t / Sickness or sworn /  
 Death o two or three o them may not put  
 a Stop to / Work.

I h many Reasons to wish t they may  
 be under / Dire<sup>n</sup> o / Council & consequently  
 under / Chief o Annamabus, but if y h  
 better Reasons for sendg and<sup>r</sup> Officers o /  
 Train, I hope y will at / same Time

appoint him Chief. Mr Apperley is so sensible of Expediency & this & he has declared he will be no Chief at Annamaboe after Mr Whytell.

If ano<sup>r</sup> Gentlemans of Train comes on, I must not only desire to see his Instructions but likewise his Covenant & I may thoroughly know his Department as well as my own. A few Days ago I sent Mr Apperley some Stores & asked a Receipt accordg to Custom at / o<sup>r</sup> Forts: He answered & he cd give me no Receipt till he had a full one from me for / Annamaboe Stores landed at Cape Coast. Now I desire I may not be chargeable w / Stores at Annamaboe tho they were consigned to me & if you will write me to that effect, it will be very hard to make me accountable for what I cant get Receipts on Delivery to / proper Officers.

If Mr Apperley dies I must send Slaves to Annamaboe at all Events & must reward him if he keeps sober. I do not know how you look upon my Situation, but / Prospect makes me v<sup>y</sup> melancholy. To build a Fort w so few Artificers where / professed Principle o / Natures is to eat, accordg to the own Phrase, is no easy Matter. Our o<sup>r</sup> Forts are built by Protection o those who live under them, & who assist us to build or repair, but at Annamaboe w<sup>y</sup> Thg is to be made a Job o, & w<sup>y</sup> Step affords fresh Matter o Demand for more Dabkeys. How<sup>r</sup> nothg sh be wantg on my Part.

The Men o War are go<sup>g</sup> off / Coast as you will see by / enclosed letters between Cap<sup>t</sup>. Faulkner & me; what will

be / Consequence o the leasg us Time must discover.

The Rains are set in w<sup>g</sup> violence wh<sup>ch</sup> makes this Castle v<sup>ry</sup> leaky, & it will soon rot / Timbers. Send us 2000 Inch & half Deals to lay over Batterments & 5000 Feet o 6 by 7 Inch Joists, as soon as possible. I am - &c -

Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle  
May 30<sup>th</sup> 1753

Copy. To Thomas Melvil Esq. &c.

Sir. As / State o ~~my~~ our provins will by no means admit o our remaining on this Coast any longer than / first o next month, & as I am persuaded no one is a better Judge o what Steps are necessary to be taken in regard to / Trade o this Coast than yrself, therefore I sh<sup>d</sup> be extremely glad if y will let me know wh<sup>at</sup> I can render / publick any Service before we leave this. I am - &c -

on board / St Albans  
Cape Coast Pouch  
24 May 1752

Copy. To Samuel Faulkner Esq. Commander  
o his Maj. Ship / St Albans

Sir I am favoured w<sup>th</sup> yr<sup>s</sup> o / 24<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>ant</sup> in wh<sup>ch</sup> y do me / honours to ask my opinion o what Steps are necessary to be taken in

regard to Trade o this Coast by y in yr  
present Situation

My thg here & at Annamaboe is now  
in a State o tranquillity, how far yr  
prece conditns thrt will be discovered  
when y are gone, but in order to borrow  
yr influence, if I may so speak, after y h  
left us, I wd advise y to give out t y  
are gog accordg to Custom to visit / lee-  
ward forts & then stand off to islands  
f refreshments, fm whence y will return  
to / Coast. In order to gain credit f this  
y must go w<sup>t</sup> takg leave o any body,  
or lettg any place take leave o y.

I am - &c -

Signed, Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle 25 May 1753

Endorsed

Cape Coast Castle

15<sup>th</sup> July 1753

Thos Melvil Esq<sup>r</sup>

[Addressee endorsed... By / Pance Edward  
Capt. Robert Douglas]

To / Committee o / Co o Merchants Trade to Africa

Gentlemen Inclosed is what I wrote y by / Men  
o War. Mr Apperley is recovered, he talks o  
layg / Foundatn o / Fort towards / End o this  
Month. Almost all our Bricklayers are sick.  
Communda is down, so is Subcondee & Dix-  
cove by / Violence o / Castl Beacons. I make no  
doubt but proper Provin will be made to repair  
them all.

Inclos<sup>d</sup>

This has lately sailed Capt Ellis Bristol  
260 Slaves, Capt Walker Do 190 Slaves,

Capt. Buats Liverpool 418 Slaves, Jepson Rhode  
Island 150 Slaves, almost ready Yowark o  
Liverpool & Chilliott o Bristol. Trade is middly.

The Ashantee Paths are neither altoqr. open  
nor are they quite shut. I am - &c -

Cape Coast Castle, July 13<sup>th</sup> 1753 Thomas Melvil

Goods in Demand, Brass Pans, Pewter Basins  
Knickers such as y sent. Patna Chinty, Carved  
Birdg Knives, Guns, Sestra candles, Danes  
Romans, Alleyars, & Callwampores, & all Sorts  
o Silk Goods.

Enclosed .. Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle, ~~the~~ 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1753

Thomas Melvil Esqr

In dorso . . . "p / Pr Edward. Capt. Douglas"

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

As / Vessel by wh I intended to send  
my last is not yet sailed I beg leave to trouble  
y w this to inform y o / Death o Mr Mackaule  
our Doctor, & to desire t two Mates may be sent  
out as well as a Surgeon f Annamaboe.

.. This has bin a most fatal Year for  
amg / Dutch, they h buried four Chiefs  
o Forts. I am - &c - Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1753

Endorsed "Cape Coast Castle 22<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1753  
Thomas Melvil Esq<sup>r</sup>"

To / Committee of Co o Merchants Tradg to Africa  
Gentlemen  
15<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> July

Inclosed is a Coppy o my last o/  
17<sup>th</sup> a Month ago / Foundam<sup>t</sup> o Annamaboe Fort was laid. Want o Bricklayers & Labouring Slaves to serve them makes / Work go slowly on.

The Towns People give us no Assistance; on / contrary they h<sup>av</sup> shown a strong Disposition to retard us by ev<sup>er</sup> method except open Violence. They do not want us to be in a Hurry. When / Fort is finished built they expect we will retrench our Presents. I make no Doubt but if h<sup>er</sup> sent a Ship w<sup>ith</sup> Supplies before this. Jam-

Thomas Melvil  
Cape Coast Castle 22 Sep<sup>r</sup> 1753

Inclosed "Cape Coast Castle  
10<sup>th</sup> October 1753  
Thomas Melvil Esq<sup>r</sup>."

Indorsed The Committee of Co o Merchants  
Tradg to Africa. London.

Gentlemen  
Inclosed is a Coppy o my last: Since I w<sup>rote</sup> it nothing Material has happened on this Coast; ev<sup>er</sup> thg is quiet, too quiet, f<sup>or</sup> there has bn no manner o trade f<sup>or</sup> above this Month but necessity will soon burst / Paths open agn. Annamaboe goes on as well as can be expected w<sup>ith</sup> so few hands. The People o t<sup>he</sup> place

afford us no help, nor give us any disturbance.  
 they drink our liquor, & leave us to build,  
 or not, build as we think proper.

Since my last Sailed I'm / Leeward  
 forts Chilcot & North o Bristol, Adams o  
 London & Keith o Rhode Island, w abt  
 1000 Slaves in all. How many Carpenters,  
 and Rhode Island men, & who is / Bearer  
 o this, carries off I know not. It is but  
 a vague Conjecture & therefore I sh take up  
 1/2 Time no fur than to acquaint y o y  
 1/2 Goods beg expended, & t I am Supply  
 f y at / diff forts, & sh continue<sup>so</sup> to do  
 while I am able. I am - - -  
 Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle 10<sup>th</sup> October 1753

Endorsed

"Cape Coast Castle  
 Novber ye 5 1753  
 Tho's Melvil Esq<sup>r</sup>

Answered y<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1754"

To / Committee o / Co o Merchants<sup>th</sup> tradg to Africa  
 Gentlemen

Inclosed is a Copy o what I wrote  
 y Octob. 10<sup>th</sup>. Since t time we h gone on at  
 Annamaboe w<sup>th</sup> any Molesta<sup>n</sup> than / Negroes  
 payg hold o evy Prefe<sup>r</sup> to extor<sup>n</sup> Money from  
 us. Some French Ships bound f Whydah  
 h bn amussg them w Stories o lge Squadrons  
 a comg

Mr Apperley has now recovered his  
 health & makes his Work go on as well  
 as can be expected. . . . It seems one fourth o  
 Part o / Bricks Mr Apperley indented f are  
 only arrived.

Yesty / Fantee Caboceros in /  
Warsaw / Warsaw Camp sent here to  
acquaint me t they h at last fixed /  
Terms o Peace betw Ashantee & Warsaw.  
t they intend soon to send up to Ashantee  
but must h a messenger fr me likewise  
to gain Credit ~~to what~~ to what they sh  
say, & to shew t English & Fantees  
stand by one ano<sup>r</sup>.

After this Peace is made, I forsee  
a gt Deal to do before / Paths are quite  
opened; How<sup>r</sup> as / Fantees are v<sup>y</sup> eager  
after / Trade & promise to submit to  
any terms or Regulans I sh propose f  
Security o / Ashantee Traders, I do not  
despair o findg some way to bind them.

I begin to fear t some misfortune  
has befallen / Ship w / Supplies. If she  
does not arrive in two months I sh  
sent an Express to acquaint y o it as I  
am sure ye do not mean t we sh starve  
as may be / Case if ye think / Supplies  
are arrivd when they are lost by / Way.

Trade at present is v<sup>y</sup> dull, perhaps I  
Hopes o Peace may, in some measure, be  
/ Occas<sup>n</sup>. The Ships are mostly gone to  
deeward, at Annamaboe only Jackson o  
Liverpool & a Rum Sloop. Return  
Tantum quarry & Accra are Anjon o  
Liverpool, Stroud & Gordon o Bristol. In  
this Road Bartlett o Plymouth. I am  
Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle. Nov<sup>r</sup> 5th 1753

Endorsed " Thomas Melvil  
Cape Coast Castle Xber 26<sup>th</sup> 1753

Recd yber 12<sup>th</sup> 1754

By / Medway. Gorman  
2 letters "

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

Inclosed is a Cobby o my Labr.  
Since t Annamaboe, more than ordin my  
quiet & oblig. The S. East Bastion o /  
Fort 12 Feet above / Surface. / N. E. abt 5  
& / Curtain betw above 12 Feet.

I must own it gives me gr Concern to see  
t a whole Year has pass'd over & not so much  
as a Scrape o a Pen fm y. The Weight o /  
whole Forts now lies upon Mr Young & me  
& if / Supplies do not soon arrive I fear  
we sh sink under them.

The Fantey, Warsaws, A Kings & some  
lesser names in the Deputies now here to  
procure Messengers fm me to go w them  
to Ashantee whither they are goig to swear  
to / Peace & open / Paths. They h paid /  
Dutch Gen. what he has laid out in this  
Affair & will h nothing to do w him as he  
has bn playg a double Game. I am - &c -  
Thomas Melvil

Cape Coast Castle  
Decr. 26. 1753.

[ Vide note on p. 994 post ]

Recd 16<sup>th</sup> February 1753. / Book containg  
a Journal o/ Dispute at Dixcove betw<sup>n</sup> /  
Dutch & / natives o Phanta. & Copies o / Cor-  
respondce carried on betw<sup>n</sup> / English & Dutch  
Officers.

Seventeen original Deposits regardg /  
above Dispute

Five Books o/ Examinat<sup>n</sup> o English &  
Dutch Evidce concerng 1<sup>st</sup> Dispute, taken  
at a meetg betw<sup>n</sup> / Dutch Gen<sup>l</sup> & Mr Roberts,  
before Capt. Baird o his Majesty's Ship  
Surprize, wh<sup>o</sup> promise to return, when /  
Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg to  
Africa sh require it Jo<sup>n</sup> Roberts

Recd 19 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1753

A Daybook f Cape Coast Castle in Feb<sup>r</sup>y 1750

A Stat<sup>e</sup> o Trade f Commenda

do ——— Dixcove

do ——— Tantomquery & Wonnibah

do ——— Acca.

A paper o Arguments in Justificat<sup>n</sup> o / British  
Rights o Achee & Commenda

Jo<sup>n</sup> Roberts

Recd 20<sup>th</sup> October 1753

One Journal dedger & Alphabet  
mark'd C. Commencg Feb<sup>r</sup>y 1<sup>st</sup> 1750

Jo<sup>n</sup> Roberts

White hall, May 3<sup>d</sup> 1753.

Sir  
 The Lords Commiss<sup>rs</sup> of Trade & Plan-  
 tations has received a letter from his Grace /  
 Duke of Newcastle w<sup>ch</sup> a Copy & Extract of two  
 letters to him from Mr Yorke His Majesty's  
 Minister at / Hague, relative to his Transac<sup>ns</sup>  
 w<sup>th</sup> / Ministers of / States Gen upon / Points in  
 Dispute between / Agents of / Co of Merchants  
 tradg to Africa & / Agents of / Dutch West India  
 Co upon / Coast of Africa; the Lordships h<sup>av</sup> ap-  
 pointed Wednesday next to take these Papers  
 into Consideration, & I am directed to desire  
 y<sup>e</sup> will acquaint / Committee of / Co of Mer-  
 chants tradg to Africa therewith, & t<sup>h</sup> the  
 Lordships desire the Attendance at the Board  
 on t<sup>h</sup> Day. I am - &c -

John Pausnell.

Wm Hollis Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Endorsed

" Copy o a letter from  
Col Yorke to / Duke  
o Newcastle, dated  
Hague Nov: 20 1753 "

Copy.

Africa

Hague November 20, 1753

My Lord

I shd h given Yr Grace an acct  
before this time o my how I executed / Kings  
orders contained in Yr letter o / 21<sup>st</sup> o August  
last, in rel<sup>n</sup> to / Disputes betw / Royal  
African Co o England & / Dutch West India  
Co, if I cd h prevailed on / latter to h appointed  
Commissaries to treat w me; But fm diff<sup>r</sup>  
reasons they alledged, it was not till  
Saturday last, t I was acquainted t two  
Deputies were arrived at this Place, Mes-  
sieurs Dedel & Pieterzon, who wd ~~us~~ wait  
upon me to hear what I h<sup>d</sup> to offer, we  
accordingly met at my House, & I was sorry  
to find those Gentlemen not sufficiently Authorized  
to ~~accept my~~ accept my Proposals, so t after  
hearing what I h<sup>d</sup> to say & making the Objections,  
We separated w<sup>t</sup> coming to any Conclusion.

As I was fully instructed by / sevl Papers t  
hd bn transmitted to me by Yr Grace fm / Board o Trade  
His Grace / Duke o Newcastle upon  
upon / points in Dispute, I explained to / Dutch  
Commissaries separately / Reasons upon wh we  
founded our Demands, & produced / proofs to  
each point.

The first point we entered upon was /  
Bay o Commerda, / free use o wh in common  
w / Dutch We contend f. The Commissaries  
tdel me they h<sup>d</sup> no intenn<sup>n</sup> to deprive us o Use  
o Bay, t it wd be a Breach o Friendship

wh / Co wd never give an Example o betw / two  
 Names. t notwithstanding the Resol<sup>n</sup> not to dispute w us  
 upon this point, they hoped we wd not insist  
 upon a formal Article in a Consen<sup>n</sup>, by wh the  
 Prior Right shd. be set aside; t as it cd never  
 be a point in dispute ag<sup>n</sup>, provided proper  
 orders were sent to prevent it, wh they were  
 ready to do, they wish'd we wd not increase  
 / Difficult<sup>ies</sup> Difficult<sup>ies</sup> by insistg upon what they cd  
 never admit, & wh in effect wd be o no  
 real advantage to us, upon / Supposi<sup>n</sup> t / free  
 use o / Bay wd shd be in common as before,  
 & the Governor apprised not to dispute it; t  
 wd enterg into a discuss<sup>n</sup> upon t head, wh  
 wd create a difficulty where none shd subsist f  
 / future, they thot it wd be better to explain  
 only what / Toll or Tax is wh may be levied,  
 wh / Mr Pietersen who was Governor the many  
 / years, declared it was nothing more than a  
 Privilege all owd to / Governors o / respective  
 Forts, to h the choic<sup>e</sup> o what Fish was brot in, at  
 a Market Price wh was Settled; t they were  
 willg to agree to any measure to prevent  
 frauds on both sides & to hinder any Tax beg  
 levied by / Governor o One Fort upon / In-  
 habitants o / Towns under / protect<sup>n</sup> o / it.

I replied t my orders did not allow me  
 to recede in / least fr<sup>m</sup> libert<sup>y</sup> / free use o / Bay  
 in / Consen<sup>n</sup> to be made; but t I thot some  
 Words mt be insert<sup>d</sup> in / same Article, wh mt  
 Save / Rights o both Names; t as disputes had  
 arisen, they mt ag<sup>n</sup>, & it was better to put an  
 end to them at once especially as they allowed  
 no Inconvenience cd result to them fr<sup>m</sup> our  
 usg / Bay & Landg Place in common, & t they  
 owned it wd be unjust to deny us what we had  
 already enjoyed fr<sup>m</sup> / first o our Settling the.

Fondg these Gentlemen, or rather Mon<sup>rs</sup>  
 Dedel alone, f Mr Pietersen treated it as a  
 mere trifle & what he had never thot o disputg

during his Gov. he had not power to give up / Point,  
I insisted upon the proposg to / Co / draw up  
an Article by wh / Bay shd be allowed to  
be in Comm'n f / future, w a saving Clause,  
if they thot it necessary, f both Names; this  
they promised to do, as I insisted upon it; and  
then we proceeded to / next point, wh is Village  
o Budha, wh / African Co demanded shd be  
left free or neuter. To this Propos'n Mr

Mr Peterson answered, t / Village o Budha  
was a little or no Consequence to either Nam,  
but t it wd be highly disadvantageous to  
both to leave any Village neuter near  
the Forts, as fm experice he knew t unless  
one side or the other by protectg / Negroes had  
some power over them, grt confusion arose; t  
he remembered this Village to be fm sometimes  
under the Protecn, & sometimes under Ours,  
but as it was nearer Our Fort, it was more  
natural to suppose / People inhabtg it had  
more to do w us; & therefore if they were  
willg to remain under us they had no  
Objec'n to it; t it was not in effect worth  
contendg f, but he was clearly agst /  
freedom or independancy o it.

[?] As to / Village o Atchiuah they had  
proofs o a vry strong Nature, Copy o wh is here  
inclosed, wh grtly invalidated in the Opinions,  
what we brgt to prove our Right; t / Person  
who gave them had resided 14 Years upon  
/ Coast had commanded at Accoda & was  
now gov Governor o all the Forts to Elm  
to Elmira; t it was impossible to offer more  
fairly than they had already done, to leave  
/ Decis'n o it to / People themselves.

Monr Peterson sd, t this Village was  
under / King o / Hantaa, & t let us  
settle it wh way we pleased, the King

[• Surely Yorke is here mixg up Bent Atchua  
w Bushra; & in this statem<sup>t</sup> de Pieter-  
son was referg to / latter place - / King's rebedce. ? ]

or Chief, whom he owned afterwards to be more  
in the Interest than Ours, wd remain Master to  
do as he thot proper; & t shd / Dutch give up /  
Point, / Hanta King wd very likely remove w  
his People to ano<sup>r</sup> Place; t the Credit upon /  
Coast wd not admit o this withdrawing the Protec<sup>n</sup>,  
where it was already granted; but t if we cd  
gain those people, they hd no objec<sup>n</sup> to make;  
but t it was a jest to dispute upon Points wh  
did not in / least depend upon us in Europe,  
but merely upon / better or worse treatm<sup>t</sup> /  
persons employed upon / Coast gave to / Negroes;  
t / shortest way was therefore to h it decided  
upon / Spot, but t / Co was determined not to  
sacrifice its Credit by permittg it to be reported  
upon / Coast, t they abandoned / People who  
lived quietly under the Protec<sup>n</sup>. Mone<sup>r</sup> Pieter-  
son appealed f / truth o all he advanced to  
those Gentlemen who hd resided upon / Coast,  
& in part Mr Creighton, to whom he sd he  
was partly well known.

Findg these Gentlemen so tenacious, &  
unable at / same time to conclude anythg  
to my satisfac<sup>n</sup>. I gave them Extracts o /  
Proffs I alledged in support o Our Right to  
this Village, & in order not to separate  
quite fruitlessly, I proposed to them to send  
immediately orders to / Coast to forbear  
w<sup>y</sup> Act o Hostility f / future upon any dec<sup>n</sup>  
whats<sup>r</sup>; t / English shd be treated as they hd  
bin before these disputes began, & t in case  
anythg shd arise hereafter, both parties shd  
immediately transmit an Acct to the Superiors,  
in Europe, & wait quietly the dec<sup>n</sup>. I desired  
t a Duplicate or authentick Copy o these Orders  
shd be delivered to me to transmit to England;  
& t I did not doubt but / King wd agree to act  
in / same manner towards them. This they  
promised to report to / Co, & they seemed

to flatter themselves t<sup>t</sup> what I proposed m<sup>t</sup>  
be agreed to.

As to / paym<sup>t</sup> o a Sum o Money in con-  
sidera<sup>n</sup> o Damages, they only sd; if we  
desired Accts, they 'hd by long ones ag<sup>s</sup>  
us, wh they did not doubt w<sup>o</sup> out balance  
Ours.

The last Article o my Instru<sup>n</sup> related to  
/ Admissi<sup>n</sup> o / Portuguese into / Trade o / Coast  
at / Forts o both Sides, excludg all o Euro-  
peans. But this they sd was too delicate a  
point f them to say anythg to fm themselves,  
tho they wd report it butt at / same time they  
cd almost take upon them to say, t the Co wd  
never consent to it, as / French traded w them,  
& gave g<sup>r</sup> prices prizes [sic prices?] f the  
Overplus Negroes, wh Advantage it wd be  
impolitic<sup>k</sup> in them to deprive themselves o,  
especially as they wd get them elsewhere.  
Besides, was such an exclusion to be given,  
it wd not depend upon / Co alone, as they 'hd  
not Power to do it, but must be referred to /  
States Gen.

This my Lord, is / Substance o what passed  
betw<sup>n</sup> / Dutch Commissaries & me except /  
Assurances they repeated o the earnest desire to  
cultivate our Friendship in evy manner possible  
in those parts, & t the new Govern<sup>r</sup> who wd set  
out next January was a v<sup>y</sup> sensible prudent  
man who wd be strictly ordered to live upon /  
best terms w / English Co, & upon no acct to  
commit any Act o Hostility. I wish I cd h<sup>o</sup> ob-  
tained more, but / Commissaries were not in-  
structed enough to proceed; & therefore I thot  
His Majesty wd wd not disapprove my pro-  
visionally agreeg upon / sendg immediate  
Orders to / Coast f puttg thgs upon the  
Ancient footg, & preventg all Disputes f /  
future.

I have - &c -

Joseph Yorke.

P.S. / Paper referred to in / foregoing letter  
is not yet come to my hands; / Dutch Com-  
missaries having this day acquainted me  
t they will send it fm Amsterdam; & I will  
not fail to transmit it to Yr Grace as soon  
as I receive it  
J. Y.

Endorsed. "Extract o a Letter fm Colonel  
Colonel Yorke to / Duke  
Duke o Newcastle  
dated at / Hague  
December 7<sup>th</sup>. 1753"

Copy. Extract o a letter fm Col<sup>o</sup>. Yorke  
to / Duke o Newcastle  
Hague December 7<sup>th</sup> 1753

I have / Hon to inclose a Transla<sup>n</sup> [?]  
o Paper, wh Mr Dedge transmitted to  
me fm Amsterdam, in / Name o Dutch  
West India Co. This Paper is referred to  
in my letter o / 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, relatg to our  
Disputes upon / Coast o Africa, partly abt /  
Village o Aitchuah. I take / liberty to in-  
close w it Copies o my letter to Mr Dedel,  
& his answer.

"Copie d'une lettre de Mr<sup>e</sup> le  
Colo Yorke a Mr<sup>e</sup> Dedel.  
da Haye le 28 Nov<sup>re</sup> 1753.

Monsieur n'ayant pas eu l'Honneur de  
Vous trouver chez votre frere, où Je  
m'étois flatté de Vous remettre en per-  
sonne les Papiers dont Je vous ai parlé,  
qui font une Partie des Preuves de notre

Compagnie Royale d'Affranchissement au Sujet du  
Village d'Atchuan. Je suis Obligé de vous  
les envoyer par le Canal de M<sup>rs</sup> de  
Greffier Fagel qui m'a promis de vous  
les faire parvenir.

Je vous prie, M<sup>rs</sup> de les faire  
examiner, et vous verrez que ce n'est  
pas sans Raison que nous prétendons  
d'avoir Droit sur cet Endroit là.

En rendant Compte à ma Cour,  
de notre Conférence, Je n'ai pas manqué  
de rendre Justice aux Sentimens d'Amitié  
et de bonne Intelligence que vous m'avez  
témoignés au Nom de Mess<sup>rs</sup> les Direct-  
eurs de la Compagnie Occidentale; Et  
J'ose vous renouveler les plus fortes  
Assurances d'une parfaite Reciprocité de  
notre Part.

J'ai annoncé le papier que vous  
m'avez promis, touchant le même Village  
cy dessus nommé, et Je l'attends avec  
Impatience.

J'espère que Mess<sup>rs</sup> les Directeurs  
ne balanceront pas de convenir au Plus tôt  
des Ordres préliminaires pour rétablir  
la bonne Intelligence sur la Côte. Et que  
vous voudrez bien me les communiquer  
préalablement à fin que Je puisse les savoir  
les Sentimens de ma Cour là dessus.

Vous trouverez cy jointe une Copie de la  
dernière Convention faite sur la Côte,  
par la Médiation de M<sup>rs</sup> House, Capi-  
taine de Haut Bord, que vous avez  
souhaité d'avoir, et J'ai l'Honneur de

Copie d'une Lettre de M<sup>rs</sup>  
 Dedel a M<sup>rs</sup> de Colonel Yorke,  
 Amsterdam le 4<sup>o</sup> Decembre 1753.

Monsieur  
 J'ai bien reçu le Paquet que  
 M<sup>rs</sup> le Greffier Fagel m'a expedie de Votre  
 Part. Les Papiers y contenus seront examinés  
 par la meme Commission a laquelle a été  
 remis le Rapport que M<sup>rs</sup> de Pietersen, et  
 moi, avons fait, Mardi passé, des Conferencies  
 que nous avons eu avec vous. J'espere  
 pareille être mis bientôt en Etat de vous com-  
 muniquer, Monsieur, quelque chose de  
 précis au Sujet des Ordres preliminaires  
 pour le Retablissement de l'harmonie  
 & de la bonne Intelligence sur la Côte. En  
 attendant, j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer  
 cy joint le Papier dont nous vous avons [ ]  
 parlé. Je ne doute pas qu'on ne soit  
 content et qu'on n'y trouve les Droits de  
 la Compagnie sur les deux Villages  
 en Question bien établis. Ceux de Messieurs  
 les Directeurs a qui j'ai eu occasion de  
 communiquer Votre obligeante Lettre sont,  
 comme moi, extrêmement sensibles aux  
 marques d'approbation que vous daignez  
 donner a nos Sentiments d'amitie et de  
 bonne Intelligence dont je puis vous assurer  
 qu'on ne se departira jamais, et ausequels on  
 joindra toujours tres respectueusement ceux  
 de la plus haute Venera<sup>m</sup> pour le Roy Votre  
 Maître et pour la Na<sup>m</sup> Angloise, dont on  
 ambitionne de meriter l'Approbation

Copie d'une Lettre de M<sup>o</sup> Dedel  
à M. de Colonel Yorkie  
Amsterdam, le 14 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1753

Monsieur Par la Resolution ci jointe,  
qu'on a luee, suivant ce que nous en  
Sommes convenus, en dange originals, V.  
E. verra que Je suis chargé de la lui  
remettre; Je m'en acquite avec d'autant  
plus de Satisfaction, qu'Elle porte, les  
Preuves des Sentimens d'Amitie,  
d'Harmonie, et d'Union, dont j'avois eu  
Ordre de Vous assurer de bouche de la part  
de Messieurs Nos Directeurs. Je me flatte,  
que V. E. trouvera, que nous avons suivi,  
sans nous en écarter, les Idées qu'Elle nous  
a fait l'honneur de nous donner; et  
que par la, Mons<sup>o</sup> nous aurons merité votre  
Approbation et celle de votre Colere.

Notre nouveau ~~General~~ Gouverneur  
General doit partir pour la Côte d'Afrique  
au Mois de Fevrier, prochain; c'est avec  
lui qu'on compte d'y envoyer les Ordres  
nécessaires, ne croyant pas, qu'avant ce  
Temps, il s'en presente l'occasion.

... .. J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

900.

Copy. Extract of a letter from Colonel  
York to Duke of Newcastle  
The Hague Dec: 18<sup>th</sup> 1753.

Yr Honors to transmit to Yr

Grace herewith enclosed / Original  
Resol<sup>n</sup> of Dutch West India Co, rela-  
tive to our Disputes upon / Coast of  
Africa & Yr Letters / Liberty to join a  
Translation w<sup>th</sup> it, together w<sup>th</sup> a Copy of Mr Dedels  
letters, Transmitt<sup>g</sup> them to me. I sh<sup>d</sup> be  
glad to know His Majesty's Resol<sup>n</sup>s  
upon this Preliminary Step, as soon as  
possible; bec<sup>ca</sup> the new Dutch Govern<sup>r</sup> will  
set out for / Coast v<sup>y</sup> early in / next Year.

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[Tyo. 1520 (Contd.)]

Annamaboe Fort

"Remarks on / Narrative relat<sup>g</sup> Annamaboe Fort"  
[Pugh notes]

1-10<sup>th</sup> June 1752. Creighton, Gregory, Chalmers, Ellis & Bruce attend<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Committee & beg consult<sup>d</sup> on y<sup>e</sup> Erect<sup>m</sup> o a new Fort at Annamaboe were o opinion in

Remarks  
No Reason render<sup>d</sup> f<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> opinion. NB. Sevl o them liv'd many years on y<sup>e</sup> Coast & all o them men o C<sup>n</sup> & well acquaint<sup>d</sup> w<sup>th</sup> Annamaboe.

1 July 1752 y<sup>e</sup> Committee tells Melville y<sup>t</sup> Currantee beg<sup>s</sup> v<sup>y</sup> desirous o a Fort at Annamaboe, y<sup>t</sup> Currantee is attach<sup>d</sup> to / Committee

Has it not bin sd in / House o Commons t<sup>t</sup> Currantee was attach<sup>d</sup> to / French

5+6-12 Aug. 1752 By this minute / Committee says they are well assured t<sup>t</sup> Bricks may be made on / Coast f<sup>r</sup> / Imm<sup>e</sup> Works &c.

By whom was / Committee assur<sup>d</sup> o this Fact & why were / Bricks not made then?

Do. The Committee on / above Intelligence resolv<sup>d</sup> to send on<sup>ly</sup> but 200 bricks be lent on<sup>ly</sup>

Why was / first<sup>t</sup> resolv<sup>n</sup> alter<sup>d</sup>?

26 Do The Committee upon fut<sup>r</sup> Enquiry in regard to beg<sup>s</sup> supply<sup>g</sup> w<sup>th</sup> materials on y<sup>e</sup> Coast & in Apperley's opinion o prevent / risks o stand<sup>g</sup> still ... send on<sup>ly</sup> 400 or Bricks

y. 26 Do The Committee Contract<sup>d</sup> f<sup>r</sup> 5 ships to take 310 Punche<sup>rs</sup>

also how much p. Ton. ag<sup>s</sup> each Vessel.

8-18 Oct. The Committee orders Apperley to use ev<sup>ry</sup> means to inform him- self o / Practicability o procur<sup>g</sup> lime, Stone & Bricks on / Coast

Where is Apperley's Ans<sup>r</sup> to this?

Enclosed

"Order fm /  
House o Commons  
to lay before y<sup>m</sup> /  
Plan o / Fort intended  
to be built at Annamaboe  
& what has bin done  
towards erectg / sd Fort  
Dated y<sup>e</sup> 22. februy 1753"

"John Bullock Attorney Ordnance office. Tower"

Jouis 22<sup>o</sup> die Februarij, 1753

Ordered

zayde

A Plan o / Fort intended  
to be built at Annamaboe, & also  
an Acct o what has bin done  
towards erectg / sd Fort, by /  
Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg  
to Africa, be laid before this House

at J. Dyson

Cl. Dom, Com.

To  
be  
photod

Plan no 1.

Plan o Annamabo Fort &  
References thro.

References to / Plan no 1

Enclosed

"From Mr John Apperley  
Duplicate Anamaboo  
March 10<sup>th</sup> 1753"

Duplicate o t p / Glory Man o War dated as under  
Anamaboo 10<sup>th</sup> March 1753

Gentlem<sup>n</sup>. I beg leave to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> I  
arrived at Cape Coast / 30<sup>th</sup> December, &  
at this Place 4<sup>th</sup> January. C<sup>t</sup> Wright was  
unloaded before I arrived. C<sup>t</sup> Thompson &  
Gormann are unloaded Ballasted & Sailed  
Some time ago. C<sup>t</sup> Gormann dropt one o / Six  
Pounder Guns over / board along Side o / Ship,  
wch is intirely lost. he has Twenty Five Thou-  
sand, tily on board, wch on consulting w<sup>th</sup> Mr  
Melvill I found them to be useless to me except  
Five Thousand I<sup>n</sup> taken ~~out~~ / ashore on<sup>t</sup> o  
Thirty Thousand, as he (Mr Melvill) informs  
me th<sup>at</sup> will not be Room Sufficient in / Fort w<sup>th</sup>  
/ Barracks are two, Floors high. I sh make /  
Tops o / Barracks flat, wch will make them  
o<sup>n</sup> equal height as if they were but one  
floor high & Roofd. As / Old Fort was  
Built on / Top o a Rock on / middle o /  
Town & Tam tyed down to / Same Ground  
I sh be Obliged to blow up ab<sup>t</sup> 6 feet Perpen-  
dicular under / girt part o / new Fort, wch  
will take me up ~~half~~ till / latter end o  
June (when / Rainy Season is over) before I  
can begin to build) fm / above Rock. I hope  
I sh get v<sup>y</sup> near as much Stone as will  
raise / Wall o / Fort as high as / Cordon  
wch will be 12 feet above / fundam<sup>n</sup>, wch  
will be 2.3<sup>ds</sup> o / height o / Wall. Out o /  
Supposed Five Brick Layers t was sent out  
I sh put one t is a Professid Brick layer, /  
o<sup>r</sup> Four Knows noth<sup>g</sup> o Brick Layers Work.

I am v<sup>y</sup> much at a loss & so is Mr Melvil, ab<sup>t</sup> knowing wh<sup>r</sup> / Committee is to find / Artificers I brot out w<sup>th</sup> me in Victuals & Drink or t<sup>h</sup> they are to find themselves, th<sup>r</sup> is no Copy o<sup>f</sup> th<sup>r</sup> Agreem<sup>t</sup> sent out they say / Committee is to find them. How<sup>ev</sup>r till y<sup>e</sup> please to satisfy me fur<sup>st</sup> on t<sup>h</sup> head by send<sup>g</sup> out a Copy o<sup>f</sup> th<sup>r</sup> Agreem<sup>t</sup>. I've made a Demand on Mr Melvil f<sup>r</sup> Supply<sup>g</sup> them w<sup>th</sup> Purv<sup>is</sup> & what o<sup>r</sup> th<sup>r</sup> they may want not exceed<sup>g</sup> th<sup>r</sup> Salary, till we h<sup>av</sup>e an Acct <sup>of</sup> in what manner they are to be supplied.

I h<sup>av</sup>e this day finish'd unboard<sup>g</sup> & Ballast<sup>g</sup> C<sup>t</sup> Davis & Gilbert, beg<sup>g</sup> / two load<sup>s</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Store Ships. I cannot as yet send y<sup>e</sup> a Receipt o<sup>f</sup> Stores as Mr Melvil has not sent me a Copy o<sup>f</sup> what Stores was Ship'd f<sup>r</sup> this place, but sh<sup>al</sup> send it by C<sup>t</sup> Davis or Gilbert.

The Copy sheers o<sup>f</sup> Anamaboe are not so forward as I expected in giv<sup>g</sup> me what Ground I sh<sup>al</sup> want f<sup>r</sup> / New fort but am in hopes by John Curvanteen & some o<sup>r</sup> / Cap<sup>ts</sup> sheers o<sup>f</sup> Town median, t<sup>h</sup> I sh<sup>al</sup> get ground sufficient by Shorten<sup>g</sup> / Faces o<sup>f</sup> Bastion fr<sup>om</sup> Fifty Five to Fifty Feet By Mr Melvil's assist<sup>ance</sup> I hope to be able to get as many Shells as will burn v<sup>y</sup> near what time I sh<sup>al</sup> want f<sup>r</sup> / Fort, exc<sup>ept</sup> it may sute yr<sup>e</sup> Consistency to send any out, when y<sup>e</sup> are send<sup>g</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Goods f<sup>r</sup> / Forts. The Bricks & Lime t<sup>h</sup> was sent out in these Five Store Ships turn'd out v<sup>y</sup> well.

I sh<sup>al</sup> want / follow<sup>g</sup> Stores to be sent out as soon as y<sup>e</sup> conveniently can...

The Country agrees w<sup>y</sup> indift<sup>r</sup> w<sup>y</sup> Parti-  
ficery & were sent out five Sevens o them  
in / Hospital at Cape Coast Castle already,  
I can get but Seven Black<sup>t</sup> bricklayers  
& one Black Carpenter belongg to / Co  
upon / Coast, wch will not be sufficient  
to finish / Fort in Two Years.

Mr Tymewell is in a bad State o  
his health & cannot come here, on wch  
his Melic appointed Mr William  
Dwainnes who was Chief at Whydah,  
to be Chief o this Place in Mr Tymewells  
Room. Mr Dwainnes is a v<sup>y</sup> carefull,  
Sober Gent<sup>n</sup> & a v<sup>y</sup> Proper Person to be  
here, as we find a g<sup>d</sup> deal o Difficulty in  
Humourg / Caprice o this rest less People,  
who will not be Satisfyed w<sup>t</sup> an  
English & French Fort built am<sup>g</sup>  
them. / French h<sup>o</sup> now Satisfyed them  
they will be here to build a Fort in six  
or eight Months time & I believe they  
will be here, except / English intercepts  
the Store Ships, wch will sail abt  
time fm France by the accounts. The two  
Boats t were sent out were o no use  
to us in landg o / Stores, as they wd not hold  
com<sup>g</sup> ashore in / Surf two trips. We all  
live in John Cwerantens house as we  
cant spare time to build a House o our  
owne w<sup>t</sup> few men w<sup>h</sup>. I h<sup>o</sup> added /  
followg since / Sailg o / Glory man o War  
& am - r -

John Apperley.

To / Gentlemen o / Committee o / Co o  
Merchits Tradg to Africa.

Endorsed"Cape Coast Castle, 11<sup>th</sup> March 1753  
Mrs Christie why tell"In order "To <sup>The</sup> Committee o/Co o Merchants Trade  
to Africa"

Cape Coast Castle, 11 March 1753

Gentlemen

My intentions were to write y by / Earl o  
Halifax. C<sup>t</sup> Thompson, to Return y my thanks f  
/ favours y h<sup>m</sup> so kind, as to Confer on me; but  
his go<sup>g</sup> to Leeward to take in Slaves & / Glory  
Man o War sail<sup>g</sup> so soon, made me embrace / latter  
I beg leave to assure y I will use my  
utmost Endeavours to do / Dutay o/ Stan y h<sup>m</sup>  
so kind as to put me in, & sh act w<sup>t</sup> all / Judgmt  
& Integrity I am Master o. The two French  
Men o War o 64 & 34 Guns t arrived at  
Annamaboi / 13<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> & saild / 20<sup>th</sup> h  
done more hurt than we are at first aware  
o, th<sup>r</sup> hav<sup>g</sup> a Man on Shore all / while they  
lay th<sup>r</sup>, as they sd (by way o excuse) to  
buy Stock, but employ'd / course in Corrupt<sup>g</sup>  
/ Natives, who are but too much inclin'd in  
th<sup>r</sup> favour, by suggest<sup>g</sup> t we look'd upon /  
Natives & w<sup>y</sup> th<sup>r</sup> in th<sup>r</sup> Possess<sup>n</sup> as our  
Property, wch enrag'd them so much t they  
were f shew<sup>g</sup> / French a Place where to  
build a Fort on, & immediately hoist th<sup>r</sup>  
Flag, wch was not put into / execution  
Dutaynes signified to / Commodore / necessity  
o th<sup>r</sup> Man's beg sent f off / Shore, who  
sent to / French Commodore to order him off,  
but did not go till / Night before they saild.  
He had French Brandy, Hats & o<sup>r</sup> th<sup>r</sup>g<sup>s</sup> to  
Dahsee / People w<sup>t</sup>. The French h taken 4  
o th<sup>r</sup> Sons along w<sup>t</sup> them & Promises to  
return in 8 Months. John Curran

has sent a Boy along w<sup>th</sup> them, as his Son tho'  
I believe he is no ~~return~~ relation to him. At pre-  
sent / Annamaboe People are v<sup>y</sup> quiet &  
allow us to a Fight, & may build a Fort, but  
they want a French one too, for they will be  
more saty<sup>d</sup> by them, they think.

As y<sup>e</sup> full Accts p. this Conveyer  
fm / Gov<sup>r</sup> o<sup>r</sup> the Transac<sup>t</sup>s, sh<sup>d</sup> not trouble  
y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>th</sup> / Repetition.

The Country & Climate has g<sup>o</sup>ly de-  
ceived me, finding it, Contrary to what  
it has <sup>be</sup> represented to me, both  
pleasant & healthy, & we h<sup>av</sup>e a g<sup>o</sup>t proof  
it in our Castle, not a white man dy<sup>d</sup>  
since Mr Melvil came out.

The Captains o<sup>f</sup> his Majesty's Ships  
now ly<sup>g</sup> here, & who live mostly ashore,  
are equally Surprized at / healthfulness o<sup>f</sup>  
/ Place.

I must heartily wish y<sup>e</sup> healths rem-  
-e.

Chr. Whytell

Endorsed

Christ<sup>o</sup> Whytell

Letter to / Committee

Dated y<sup>e</sup> 22 April 1753

Annamaboe April 22<sup>d</sup> 1753

Gentlemen

y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> p. / I did myself / Pleasure o<sup>u</sup>ring  
advised y<sup>e</sup> o<sup>u</sup> my Arrival at Cape Coast<sup>l</sup> Castle  
/ 31<sup>st</sup> August. Decem<sup>r</sup>.

After returning y<sup>e</sup> my most Grateful  
thanks f<sup>o</sup> y<sup>e</sup> favours shewn me; I am to  
inform y<sup>e</sup> t<sup>o</sup> n / 21<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> (upon Mr  
De Vaynes Resignat<sup>n</sup>) I was prefer'd by /  
Governor & Council, to / Gov<sup>r</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Annamaboe,  
wh<sup>o</sup> place h<sup>o</sup> n at Ever since; And not

only wish it may meet w<sup>th</sup> yr Approbation.  
 But hope to fulfil / Duties o my Stan<sup>n</sup>; &  
 Answer / Trust reposed in me, to yr  
 Satisfaction.

As I was here some little while on  
 my first coming on / Coast (when Mr Tyne-  
 well refus'd it) I gain'd some Know-  
 ledge o / Natives' Tempers & Manners;  
 wh are strangely unaccountable: They are  
 a Greedy, dissatisfied People.

John Curantée is as much French as  
 English, & will hold out a hand to each  
 Nan. & tho' he endeavours to carry a sort  
 good Masque, yet still we see thro' it;  
 but beg under his Protec<sup>n</sup>, obliges us to  
 be extremely cautious o our Ac<sup>t</sup>s & Expressions.

Ev<sup>ry</sup> ch<sup>g</sup> is quiet here, at present & do  
 suppose will continue so, till / Return o  
 French in August or Septemb<sup>r</sup> next; wh is  
 / Time they h<sup>ve</sup> promised to be here ag<sup>n</sup>, but  
 w<sup>th</sup> a g<sup>tr</sup> number o Ships. The Keep<sup>g</sup> the  
 words, we h<sup>ve</sup> no reason to dispute, as they h<sup>ve</sup>  
 hitherto b<sup>een</sup> v<sup>ry</sup> punctual in what they h<sup>ve</sup>  
 promised / Annamaboe People; & could  
 we put them o [off] this time, am  
 apt to believe they would attempt / Affair  
 no more.

The 2 French Men o War t arrived  
 here y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> & staid till y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup>  
 last (1 Leprotte o 64 Guns & y<sup>e</sup> da  
 Siraine o 36) has done us more hurt  
 than we were at first aware o;

F they hd a Man on shore / whole  
 time, under pretce o buy<sup>g</sup> in stock, but  
 employ'd o<sup>r</sup>wise: as insinuat<sup>g</sup> to / Natives  
 t we (English) look'd upon them, & all

t belonged to them, as our property; wh took  
its desired effect, b they were so enrag'd  
t they were b shewing y<sup>e</sup> French a P<sup>s</sup> o  
ground wh they should take Possession  
immediately & hoist<sup>d</sup> th<sup>e</sup> Flag; but did not  
put this Resol<sup>n</sup> into Execut<sup>n</sup>, However to  
let / French See they were in Earnest, he  
sent off 40 / Caboccers Sons along w<sup>th</sup> M<sup>rs</sup>  
M<sup>rs</sup> Leit, wh they are to return w<sup>th</sup> time  
above mention'd; but hope may be once  
more presented.

M<sup>r</sup> Apperley writes y<sup>e</sup> fully concern'd  
our Whitemen & also abt our Table Expenses.  
Therefore sh not trouble y<sup>e</sup> on those heads.

Our Trade here is vastly g<sup>t</sup> but v<sup>y</sup>  
dear, Slaves beg got to 10 oz. p. head.  
Heres never bn less than 10 & 12 Vessels  
in this Road since I came upon / Coast. Theris  
14 at Present. Please to Honour me w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup>  
Commands wh I will endeavour to Execute  
to / utmost o my Abilities. - 96 -

[no addresses on/  
letter]

Chr. Whyteell

Endorsed

" John Apperley  
letter to / Committee  
Dated y<sup>e</sup> 22 April 1753  
Recd y<sup>e</sup> 25 July 1753"

Mamaboe 22 April 1753  
Gentlemen I fut<sup>r</sup> beg leave to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> since  
my letter by Cap<sup>t</sup> Cockburn, I h<sup>ad</sup> all /  
white Men dangerously ill, & still continue  
so, I h<sup>ave</sup> Bury'd / follow<sup>g</sup> white men, Viz:  
... [names o 1 Factor 2 Bricklayers, 1 Smith,  
1 Carpenter - total 5]

The white Men can in no manner o Attendance when they are ill as there is no Surgeon in / Place, a Man wh shd not be wanted on / Spot, when / white Men are exposed to / heat o / Sun; & taken ill o a Sudden when there is no Surgeon to take care o them & loose the lives f want o Attendance, wh I h experienced by / loss o / above men,

I myself was near followg the fate only thro / help o a Surgeon in / Road I h happily got over it therefore sh be glad if wd order an able Man to this Place, beg what is v much wanted & may be a means o savg / Remainder o / white Mens' lives & enable me to carry on / Works / faster by havg my People in good health & takg care o them if they shd be ill.

These white Men I h at Present t are not Artificers (wh is Four) are useless to me as no white Man can work at Labourers Work in this Country.

The white Brick layers can work but Five Hours & / Blacks but seven hours in / Day, / Sun beg so extremely Hott here. As I find / Black Brick layers are / People I am to depend upon f Buildg / fort out o / 23 Men Slaves Cap<sup>t</sup> Bruce brot from Gambia I h made 12 o them Brick layers 3 Carpenters & 3 Smiths, & I believe they will answer our Expecta<sup>ns</sup> beg / only method I cd fall upon to get Artificers.

I h consulted w<sup>th</sup> Mr Melvill & can find no Speedier Method f havg o this Fort built than by havg a good Supply o Slaves fm Gambia fm 15 to 22 Years o Age, & they may be put to

Trades as soon as they arrive, / sooner / better,  
of w<sup>ch</sup> Purpose Mr. Melville has dispatch'd  
/ African Sloop home, & hope these  
Proposals will meet w<sup>th</sup> yr<sup>s</sup> approbation &  
Speedy Compliance, as / Support of all yr  
Forts upon / Coast, this in part, depends  
v<sup>ry</sup> much upon it as y<sup>e</sup> h<sup>av</sup>e no Artificers  
worth mentioning on / Coast.

I fur<sup>ther</sup> desire to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> t<sup>hat</sup> since I h<sup>av</sup>e  
bn here / xtry expence o<sup>f</sup> keep<sup>ing</sup> a Table h<sup>ere</sup>  
bn v<sup>ry</sup> gr<sup>eat</sup> by reason o<sup>f</sup> our be<sup>ing</sup> Obliged to  
maintain W<sup>m</sup> & Lewis, two o<sup>f</sup> John's Sons  
w<sup>ith</sup> some o<sup>f</sup> Capshers o<sup>f</sup> Town who eat  
constantly at / Table, by Calculat<sup>ion</sup> o<sup>f</sup>  
xtry expence we h<sup>av</sup>e bn at since I h<sup>av</sup>e bn here,  
it amts to ab<sup>out</sup> Two Hundred Pounds a  
Year, & I hope you'll take it into Con-  
sideration & make us allow<sup>ance</sup> of these  
xtry expences, as it is not reasonable  
we sh<sup>ould</sup> be so much on<sup>ly</sup> o<sup>f</sup> our own Pockets.  
We find it v<sup>ry</sup> necessary to maintain those  
People tho' at our own expence, f<sup>or</sup> sh<sup>ould</sup> we  
in / least neglect them, ~~it will~~  
w<sup>ould</sup> v<sup>ry</sup> much retard our build<sup>ing</sup> a Fort  
here, therefore I hope you'll take it into  
Consideration & make some reasonable  
Allowance of the Entertainment.

I h<sup>av</sup>e taken down / Walls o<sup>f</sup> Old Fort,  
& sh<sup>all</sup> this week begin Blow<sup>ing</sup> up / Rocks  
under / new Fort.

I sh<sup>all</sup> h<sup>av</sup>e some Provision com<sup>ing</sup> on<sup>ly</sup> by / first  
Ship of this Place, wherein I hope y<sup>e</sup> will please to  
allow me / Freight agreeable to yr<sup>e</sup> Promise ...

I am - &c -  
The Gent<sup>l</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Committee John Apperley  
o<sup>f</sup> Co o<sup>f</sup> Merch<sup>ants</sup> trad<sup>ing</sup>  
to Africa

Endorsed Admiralty  
28<sup>th</sup> May 1753  
"John Cleveland"

In dorso "To - Hollier Esq<sup>r</sup>  
New Broad Street"

Sir Having been informed t<sup>y</sup> h<sup>e</sup> has acct<sup>d</sup> t<sup>y</sup>  
a French Ship o<sup>f</sup> War hath been drove ont<sup>o</sup>  
o<sup>f</sup> Annamaboe Road by one o<sup>f</sup> His Maj-  
esty's Ships, I sh<sup>al</sup> be much obliged to y<sup>e</sup> to  
favour me w<sup>th</sup> part<sup>rs</sup> by / Bears & am - n -  
J Cleveland

Admiralty  
28<sup>th</sup> May 1753.

Endorsed Annamaboe 23<sup>d</sup> June 1753  
Mr Chris<sup>t</sup> Whytell

In dorso "To The Committee o<sup>f</sup> Co<sup>o</sup> Merchants  
Trade to Africa In London  
p C<sup>t</sup> Douglass."

Gentlemen I did myself / Pleasure o<sup>f</sup> writing  
to y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup> / Sloop Africa, advising y<sup>e</sup> o<sup>f</sup> my be<sup>g</sup> Pre-  
fined fird to / Gos o<sup>f</sup> Annamaboe / 21  
March last. wh<sup>o</sup> was an undertakg<sup>g</sup> few  
or none upon / Coast would choose to  
accept o<sup>f</sup>, but I was determined to venture  
on it, & to do all in my power to merit in some  
part / favours I h<sup>e</sup> already received fm y<sup>e</sup>  
I h<sup>e</sup> found it a Task equal to evy  
one's Imagin<sup>n</sup>. f<sup>i</sup>ts one continual Scene o<sup>f</sup>  
Confusion, dailing [daily] Palavers &  
never to be Satisfyed. When we dine we

h. commonly at our Table 3 or 4 Caboceros  
whose rude & disagreeable Behaviour I  
take not / least notice o, 'tis so at  
Breakfast & the eatg is proportionable to  
the Drinkg.

We are hard set to get Provin<sup>m</sup>  
to support us w<sup>t</sup> payg an exorbitant  
Price, f<sup>r</sup> John's Boys who Command  
all below Stairs, stop / Bush People fm  
bringg us Fowls &c & buy them at the  
owne Price & make us pay double f<sup>r</sup> them,  
or Starve. And the can be nothg  
got here by Trade, while we live in  
John's house, / People beg afraid o  
bringg any Slaves f<sup>r</sup> Fear o the beg  
P<sup>r</sup>ay P<sup>r</sup>arricided by John &c, & if  
a chance Slave comes, & / Enguines or  
me shd buy him, John demands 4  
Ackeys p head to / House, alltho we  
pay him Eight Ackeys p Month house  
rent. These & many more Inconvenies  
I h to struggle thro, all wh I should not  
bear but to do, if I hd a Prospect o / Forts  
beg built in any reasonable time.  
At present I h none. Mr, Apperley has  
f<sup>r</sup> / most part ben Confined to his Bed,  
& tho' he is now Somethg recovered,  
yet his late Illness (beg a v<sup>y</sup> severe  
one, occuired as he imagined by  
Poison) has left such a Weakness in  
his Limbs, t he can scarcely bear to be  
[out] o / Bed, & havg none Proper to  
Execute his Orders, makes evythg go  
on slowly. Indeed I could wish  
f<sup>r</sup> / Publick good Two or Three able

Persons whose Instructions were made known to / Governor & Council at Cape Coast Castle, & under the direction, were here / Norwich by / sure method o' dispatch. But while this is only one, & he liable to Death or a Long serious [sic] o' Sickness, & who wants to be absolute in w<sup>y</sup> ac<sup>m</sup> can never make Affairs go smoothly & amicably, wh<sup>y</sup> they sh<sup>d</sup> do in this Place, & whoever is Chief here, his desire will always be to see / Fort Finished, as his Profit begins then, & / o<sup>r</sup>s Ceaseth. My Instructions are from / Governor & Council to Comply w<sup>y</sup> w<sup>y</sup> demand / Engineer matter in Writg, but am obliged f<sup>r</sup> / Publick Peace & Advantage to do w<sup>y</sup> thg by his Verbal Orders, he refusg to give me any thg under his hand. I cd mention many parts but sh<sup>d</sup> refer only to / above one, o' his refusg to give me orders in Writg, & will leave it to y<sup>r</sup> better Judgment how to proceed on t<sup>e</sup> head, as it will be v<sup>y</sup> hard upon / Chief here, to be answerable f<sup>r</sup> w<sup>y</sup> thg delivered ont in t<sup>e</sup> manner.

The foundam<sup>n</sup> o' / Fort is intended to be laid latter end o' next month, & I dread / Time, as then will be / Critical one, f<sup>r</sup> I find (tho' we are tolerably quiet at Present, beg on a good footg w<sup>th</sup> John who I study to please) they are pickg out Palavers agst t<sup>e</sup> time, & wish a few Dasher will satisfy e<sup>m</sup>, but will do my utmost. I am - &c -  
Ann Amakooe  
June 23<sup>d</sup>. 1753  
Chr. Whyte

White hall, July 17<sup>th</sup> 1753.

Gentlemen

The Lords Commissioners of Trade  
& Plantations have taken into the Consideration  
1 Copy of a Letter from Mr Christopher Whyte  
Secretary of Cape Coast Castle, to y<sup>e</sup> dated 11<sup>th</sup>  
of March last [vide p 906 supra] laid before the  
Lordsships by yr Secretary, & it appears to the  
Lordsships to contain Intelligence of gr<sup>t</sup> Importance  
I am directed by the Lordsships to desire yr  
Attendance at the Board tomorrow Morning at  
eleven o'Clock to the Lordsships may be in-  
formed from y<sup>e</sup> what you have received any fur-  
ther by Letter or otherwise w<sup>ch</sup> respect to  
what is contained in the Letter. I am - &c -

John Pownall  
Secretary

Gentlemen of Committee  
of the Merchants  
trading to Africa

Endorsed Annamaboe 8<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1753 No 3.  
Mr John Apperley

Gent<sup>l</sup> Annamaboe 8<sup>th</sup> September 1753

I beg leave to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> that I at-  
tempted to lay / foundation of / Fort twice, but  
was so often interrupted by / Inhabitants of  
this Town by filling up / foundation, wh<sup>ch</sup> I dug /  
third time & / 12<sup>th</sup> of August last laid /  
foundation of / S<sup>o</sup> East Bastion by / Consent of /  
Captains & Pinning of / East Town (beg /  
Chief Magistrates) & the heather to gone on w<sup>ch</sup>  
as much Success as may be expected from so

few people (have) but 8 Bricklayers & 14 Lab-  
 owners) I h / foundam<sup>n</sup> o / above Bastion one  
 foot above / Surface, wh has taken up all /  
 Stone I h heather to Blow, I must meet  
 week twom / Mason & labourers fm / Wall  
 to Blow more Stone, as I am Oblidgd. to  
 build / two Bastions face / Sea &  $\frac{1}{2}$  o a  
 third Bastion face t Way, Intirely w Stone  
 as beg more durable than Bricks & these parts  
 o / Wall beg more lyable to be attackd, then any  
 part o / Fort.

besides, Stone is much Cheaper if I ca  
 get Co's Slacks to Blow them, as / Inhabit  
 Inhabitanee will not work at t work at  
 [sic] but w some defigly at any o<sup>r</sup> tho they  
 h all / Encourgem<sup>t</sup> I imaginable.

on Consultg Mr Melvil &c (agreeable  
 to yr Orders) I find it necessary to raise /  
 Walls o / Fort six feet higher, then I first  
 Intended by my plan & Estimate & / Common  
 Custom o Buildg in Europe, as high walls is /  
 principal & Shuerest defie agst / Inhabitanee  
 o this Contrey, when / Fort is at / Same time  
 Cap able o beg defendd agst an European  
 force proportiond to / Age<sup>n</sup>ess o / place.

Time is an Article I sh<sup>d</sup> v<sup>y</sup> much want  
 as / expence o bringg Stone fm Discoe Burng  
 &c. besides loss o time, havg so few hands, will  
 make it dearer on / Spot than if it was sent  
 fm England, therefore in my Humble oppinion if  
 I send 150 or 200 Tun fm England, Slackd,  
 & packd as before, (at what Assiste / Affrica  
 Sloop, when she arrives, may give us in bringg  
 Lime Stone fm Discoe) I doubt not but it  
 will answer many good Ends besides for-  
 wardg / Works & Includg / Fort soon, wh will

enable y<sup>e</sup> to retrench many X<sup>tr</sup>ay Expenses &  
y<sup>e</sup> are now Oblig'd to be at (as Fantens  
must Eat & not a little will serve them  
on this occasion) they, / Fantens expect /  
French hear next month, who has pro-  
mised them d<sup>g</sup>s presents, besides what they  
h<sup>e</sup> already got

I hope my letter o/ 10<sup>th</sup> March pr  
Glory man o' Warr & Duplicate o' 22<sup>d</sup>  
April pr Africa Sloop h<sup>e</sup> mett w/ y<sup>e</sup> ap-  
proba<sup>n</sup> & a favourable Construc<sup>n</sup> o' my  
Intent<sup>s</sup> when I assure y<sup>e</sup> t<sup>h</sup> I am I h<sup>e</sup> / Sent  
Good o' Service I am now upon Sincerely  
at heart.

I am fur<sup>r</sup> to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> t<sup>h</sup> / Whites I bro<sup>d</sup>  
ont w<sup>th</sup> me are all dead but five (viz) one  
Smith & four Labourers, wh<sup>ch</sup> last four are  
o' no manner o' use to me, / Smith & one  
o' Labourers are V<sup>y</sup> ill & h<sup>e</sup> no g<sup>o</sup>d hopes o'  
the recovery.

White men as Artificiers & Labourers are  
quite useless to me here, therefore look up-  
on ~~them~~ the<sup>r</sup> Wages as money thrown  
away, as I am now pretty well acquainted  
w/ people & Nature o' / Country I hope  
to be able to go through w<sup>th</sup> this work w<sup>th</sup>  
/ Assist<sup>ce</sup> o' any more Artificiers fr<sup>m</sup> Eng-  
land except they are Sob<sup>er</sup> men & Work-  
men people I can hardly expect to come out  
here, f<sup>r</sup> these I h<sup>e</sup> are useless to me, if  
they work one day they are Sick f<sup>r</sup> a fortnight  
after it & perhaps die, f<sup>r</sup> I h<sup>e</sup> had by few  
days work fr<sup>m</sup> any o' them, & some none  
at all.

John Corvanteen & / Capuseers o' An-  
namaboe, promised to deliver pa<sup>ss</sup>es at  
Lay 9 / founda<sup>n</sup> o' Fort (t<sup>h</sup> / Works  
shd not be interrupted) wh<sup>ch</sup> they  
h<sup>e</sup> not yet done but put it of fr<sup>m</sup> day to

day, now (they say) they will deliver the pawns next week but how far I may believe them I sh know in my next pr Captn Chilcote o Bristol who sails soon f / West Indies. I am in hopes o findg a Spring o water in / Fort o the B Town I bt in / Rocks but w little Success findg findg but little water. Sh go deeper when I h more men. if I can get no good Spring sh make a convenient Tank f Supply o / Fort.

if (on consultg our Indol re) I h made any altera<sup>n</sup> in / plan wh I do not approve o (as I h acquainted w wry part<sup>r</sup>) I sh be glad to know fr fur pleasure & assure yr selves t I sh obey yr orders on t head w punctually, as I endeavour to gather all / advantages t may be necessary both f / defence o / Fort & / health o / people t live in it.

I h nothg fur to acquaint y w at present ...

I conclude - etc -

John Apperley

To / Gen<sup>l</sup> o / Committee o / Co o merchants Tradeg to Africa

Endorsed

"Annamaboe 11<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1753  
Wm Christ<sup>l</sup> Whytall"

Gentlemen

Annamaboe Oct<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1753

I did myself / Honour o Writg f p. Capt Douglas in July last. Since then, our Affairs here h had various Turns: f upon our men o Wars leavg this Coast, I could perceive / natives grow daily more insdent & endeavour<sup>s</sup> to distress us in ~~any~~ ev<sup>y</sup> shape, puttg us to gr inconvenience f Victuals, by keepg / Bushmen fm supplyg us w Stock, & what we do buy is at double Price. This we put up w, but they carryg the Insolce to such a height, as /

fully up / Trenches t were dug f / day 9 o /  
Founda<sup>n</sup>, caused us to exert ourselves: &  
Threaten to leave / Place, & apply home f  
Address, takg care to insinuate to them t we  
doubted not but y would procure a Squadron  
o Men o War to be sent here to Correct them  
f ths ungerous [sic] Proceedgs - F as they  
had invited us (/English) to come & rebuild  
our Fort, they should pay all / Expenses we  
had bn at, wh we told them amounted to  
upwards o £30,000 & Fw<sup>r</sup> assured them t /  
Men o War would be ordered, not only  
to drive all Ships &c out o / Road, but keep  
all o<sup>r</sup>s fm tradg w them: This treatmt had  
its desired Effect f they held a Council, at  
wh I was desired to be Present, & declared  
t f / future None o / works should be pulled  
down or / People molested in workg, & to  
shew / English how Earnest they were in  
this Affair, they would deliver me good  
Pawns f to bind them to what they then  
promised: & should be delivered on / Day  
/ Founda<sup>n</sup> Stone was Laid: begg me to  
send f Mr Apperley (who was gone to  
Cape Coast Castle, in order to make em  
believe we were in Earnest & t he was go<sup>g</sup>  
to leave this Place) to come immediately, wh  
I did: & he returned, & laid / Founda<sup>n</sup>  
Stone o Annamaboe Fort, In / Presce & w  
/ Gen Consent o / Rynins, Cabocers, &  
People o Annamaboe on / 18<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1753  
The Pawns I did not receive fm  
them till / 11<sup>th</sup> o Sept<sup>r</sup>, & 2 days after, I  
carried them to Mr Melisil where I left  
em, beg John Currante's youngest Son, &  
Y'cong's Grandson. Y'cong is / next successor  
to John's Stool, The next Affairs I had to

get over was / Eatg Palaver, f wh they de-  
 manded o me 300 Bendas o Goods. I  
 told them I was not to purchase / Ground  
 belongg / English, who hd paid Rent to /  
 Braffoe f this 100 Years past f it. I  
 was willg to make them merry on /  
 Occas, & got off f abt 300 Gallons Brandy  
 100 ditto Rum  
 25 oz Goods.

& at Present we are in gr Tranquility, but  
 its duram is uncertain. The chiefs Inten<sup>n</sup>  
 o Retardg / works was, t we should start  
 fair w / French, this beg / time they expect  
 them; but hope they will meet w / some  
 Disappointmt as they hd last February.  
 Mr Ppperley will inform y, by this Conveyce,  
 o Progress o / Fort. The Trouble (havg  
 none to assist me) & Try expence o my  
 Table, sh entirely leave to y<sup>r</sup> Pleasure,  
 Assur<sup>g</sup> y nothg in my Power sh be  
~~attempt~~ wantg to promote & forward /  
 Publick Concern, I am - &c -  
 [No addressee on / letter] Chr: Whytell

no 4.

Endorsed Annamaboe 11 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1753  
 John Ppperley Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Annamaboe, October 11<sup>th</sup> 1753.

Gentlemen Since my last o 8<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> I am  
 to acquaint y t / S<sup>o</sup> East Bastion is now ten feet  
 above / foundam all round, we h heather to  
 gone on unmolested by / Towns people but  
 we h no dependce on / Continu<sup>ce</sup> o this  
 Good behaviour as they respect / French Fleet  
 hear daily.

We h<sup>e</sup> heather to los<sup>t</sup> no time in go<sup>g</sup> on  
w/ works & hope to be able to continue  
in w<sup>h</sup> equal success by yr<sup>e</sup> send<sup>g</sup> me a  
supply o 200 Tunns o Lime (as per last o  
Sept<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>) & 3 or 4 hundred thousand  
Bricks at least as soon as possible & can  
I Rock where I Blow / Stone diminishes  
v<sup>y</sup> fast I cannot expect many more  
Stones out o it

I Intend to carry / above Bas-  
tione to 14 or 18 feet high before I lay  
any fresh Foundam<sup>n</sup>. I h<sup>e</sup> as yet mett<sup>d</sup> w<sup>h</sup>  
but little success in blowing in / Wells but  
sh<sup>d</sup> try some feet deeper.

The above Lime & Bricks will soon  
be wanted here, tho I use all / methods I  
can to make / Lime hold out till I h<sup>e</sup> a  
fresh supply wh I hope to receive as soon  
as possible.

The Store Ship w<sup>h</sup> supplies f / Forts,  
wh has bin a long time expected at Cape  
Coast Castle, is not yet arrived.

I h<sup>e</sup> noth<sup>g</sup> fur to add at present but  
hope y will comply w / above demands . . .

I am - &c -

John Apperley.

To the Gen<sup>l</sup> o / Committee o / Co o Merchants  
Trading to Africa

Endorsed

John Apperley no 5  
Pomeroon  
November 4<sup>th</sup> 1753

11<sup>th</sup> November 1753 Gentlemen  
I fur begg leave to  
acquaint y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>h</sup> since my last (as above) [i.e. Dupl<sup>o</sup> o  
letter o 11 Oct] I h<sup>e</sup> bin obliged to alter my

Scheme o raising / above Bastion to 14 or 18  
 feet high & to Cover it f / present at 12 feet  
 high. - / two Towns differing among themselves  
 has partly occasion'd / above alteram in  
 my first proposall. The stretch'd / East  
 Curtain & Carry'd it 2 feet above / boundan  
 (wh Curtain partly divides / Two Towns, as  
 I find it v<sup>y</sup> much my Interest to Keep them  
 at peace w<sup>ch</sup> each o<sup>r</sup> whilst I go on w<sup>th</sup> Works.  
 I h<sup>ave</sup> nothing fur<sup>ther</sup> to add, but begg yr Speedy  
 Complyce w<sup>th</sup> above demand & I remain - &c -

John Apperley.

To / Committee o Merchants Traded to Africa

The Recm o / Fort at Annamaboe.

Dr. 152. To Cash paid Outset o / Sloop Africa

To Cost o Sundry Goods shipped on board sd Sloop & purchase o Gambia Slaves

To Cost o Sundry Stores sent p<sup>ts</sup> / Terribille Earl o Halifax New Gloucester Albionia New Parham

Dolphin & Charges To Cash paid Mrs Apperley Surveyor, half a Years Salary

907	: 15	: 3
574	: 7	: 2
654	: 12	: 0
1,092	: 14	: 11
1,450	: 1	: 9
927	: 12	: 9
125	: 8	: 0
163	: 0	: 6
162	: 10	: 0

6118 2 3

[Contd over page]

Cr.

1753

July 10<sup>th</sup> By Cash received at / Sechequins, Fees Deducted £ 5,832:6:6  
By Balance due on this Acct 7,644:14:6

n.B. Besides quantity o Buckets & dome already sent ab mentioned on / o<sup>r</sup> side, 1 Surveyor still requires £50,000 Buckets & 120 Tons o Lime

£ 19,477: 1:0

To Charges of Sloop Africa Missions,  
or outset Second Voyage

416: 11: 4

To Cost of Sundry Goods Shipped on  
board sd Sloop for Purchase of  
Gambian Slaves

386: 14: 2

To Cost of Sundry Stores re sent by  
Ships Robert Medway & Psyden, in-  
cludg Mr Apperley's Salary

2,639: 8: 8

3,442: 14: 2

n.B. The parts of above Articles appear in  
gen Accts passed by / Curator Baron  
of Sechezur in / years 1752 & 1753

1754 To Cost of Sundry Stores re a shipped  
on board / Ships Hangover, Planter,  
Bassett & Spencer Fugate

1,566: 8: 4

To Cash paid Mr Apperley June month  
Salary due 14th Octr 1754

273: 15: 0

1,840: 3: 4

n.B. By / above Ships has been sent out  
745, 480 Bricks & 363 Tons of Linn

To Sundry Charges incurred at Annamaboe as by  
Accounts transmitted home



Prot from another paper £ 11,400 : 19 : 9

Am Acct of Charges incurred at from am abov.	White Men's pay & hired negros	Palaniers	Presents & Dashets	Total
From 1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 1752	93 : 7 : 0		180 : 1 : 0 1/2	£ 279 : 8 : 8 1/2
1 <sup>st</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> January 1753	10 : 16 : 4 1/2		44 : 8 : 9	55 : 5 : 1 1/2
10 <sup>th</sup> January to 21 <sup>st</sup> March	540 : 15 : 1 1/2		396 : 11 : 1	939 : 6 : 2 1/2
21 <sup>st</sup> March to 30 <sup>th</sup> April	101 : 18 : 1	5 0	141 : 9 : 0	249 : 12 : 1
1 <sup>st</sup> May to 30 <sup>th</sup> June	179 : 4 : 3	4 : 0 : 0	120 : 14 : 6	303 : 18 : 9
1 <sup>st</sup> July to 31 <sup>st</sup> August	212 : 4 : 4	7 : 10 : 0	224 : 8 : 3 1/2	444 : 2 : 7 1/2
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept to 31 <sup>st</sup> Octr	173 : 1 : 0	3 : 15 : 0	330 : 12 : 3 1/2	507 : 8 : 3 1/2
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov to 31 <sup>st</sup> Decr	320 : 5 : 11	30 : 4 : 9	206 : 2 : 6	556 : 13 : 2
£ 3,321 : 14 : 11 1/2	£ 1,691 : 12 : 9	£ 45 : 14 : 9	£ 1,644 : 7 : 5 1/2	£ 3,321 : 14 : 11 1/2

2,076 : 1 : 3  
£ 13,477 : 1 : 0

£ 3,321 : 14 : 11 1/2 Cash Money at 60 P<sup>r</sup> Cent

[ End o T. 70. 1520 ]

Anamabor 9<sup>th</sup> March 1753.

R<sup>r</sup>. Hon<sup>ble</sup> & Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gent<sup>l</sup>.

I beg leave to acquaint  $\frac{1}{2}$  Hon<sup>ble</sup> E  
I arriv'd at Anamabor / 4<sup>th</sup> o Jan<sup>y</sup> & / next  
Day began to unload / Storeships, & by /  
Assistance o / Cos Slaves, & / Inhabitants o /  
Town we h this Day finish'd unloading &  
Ballast<sup>g</sup> all / Storeships.

The 25<sup>th</sup> o Jan<sup>y</sup> I attempted to lay down  
/ Plan o / new Fort, on / Ground where / Old one  
stood: but as / Old Fort did not take up above  
One Fifth o / Ground / new one will require, /  
Cabocers (or Chief Magistrates o / Town)  
object to it, f reason they were us'd by ill  
by / Chiefs o / Old Fort tho small, & they are  
afraid o / Consequence o lett<sup>g</sup> / English build a  
/ New Fort as it stands in / Middle betw<sup>n</sup> / two  
Towns (f this Place is distinguished by /  
Cabocers & Fish<sup>g</sup> Towns) but by / Mediam<sup>n</sup>  
o John Curvantee (who is Captain o those  
Towns under / King o Fantem) & a few o  
/ are Cabocers o / Place, I h hopes o prevail<sup>g</sup>  
on / rest o / Town to give me what Ground I  
sh<sup>d</sup> want, by short<sup>g</sup> / Face o / Bastion fm  
55 to 50 Feet in length, be<sup>g</sup> bound by /  
Beech (where / Inhabitants must h a Road  
to carry the Dead past / Fort to the Bury<sup>g</sup>  
Ground) on one Side & / Houses on /<sup>o</sup> the  
Sides.

As it is / Custom o / Country to bury /  
Chiefs o the Families in the Houses, no  
Reward will prevail on them to take down  
/ least Part f our Conveniency.

The length o both Towns fm East to  
West is 1 Mile &  $\frac{1}{4}$ , & built along / Beech,  
/ Breadth fm North to South  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile.

The Old Fort stands in / Middle between both Towns on a Rock 8 Feet above High Water Marks, & 60 Yards distant; There is a steep Beach opposite / Fort, but a tolerable good Landg Place f Canoes (what they are obliged to make use o along / Coast) on a flat sandy part o Beach between / Rocks opposite / Gate o / Fort & sh be obliged to blow up abt 6 Feet perpendicular o Rock under / gable part o / New Fort, f / Convenience o getting Stone f buildg; / Quantity o Bricks sent out will only raise / Parapet + Houses / Inside o / Fort, & levelg / Ground / Inside.

I can muster no more than Twelve Bricklayers, white & black, on / Coast, includg / Five I brot out w me, three o wh are hardly worth / Name; by / Number o Bricklayers I h at present, I am afraid I cannot answer / Committee's expectation in having / Fort built in Two Years. They told me there was abt Thirty Bricklayers I was to h on / Coast but I can find no more than Seven, how<sup>r</sup> sh contribute all t his in my Power towards having it finished as soon as possible.

The 13<sup>th</sup> o Feb<sup>y</sup> Two French Men o War arriv'd in this Road, one o 64 Guns, the o<sup>r</sup> 34, as they inform'd us, to visit the Trade on / Coast & had no Call to stop here. The next Day / Glory Man o War, wh lay in Cape Coast Road, (us / St Albans, Assistance, & Falcon Sloop, wh arriv'd fm England t Day) came down & anchor'd within / French Men o War so as to prevent them, fm carryg on any Correspondence w / Natives t mit be prejudicial to our Interests.

The French Captain sent Mrs De Dubourdieu ashore here, belongg to /

Co. who was here last Year, w<sup>th</sup> Brandy & dry  
Goods (as / French Captain s<sup>ch</sup>) to reward /  
Traders o this Place, f<sup>r</sup> the good Usage, to  
such o these Merchant Ships as call'd here to  
Trade; but by / above Gentlemans Confes<sup>n</sup>,  
/ French Merchants had lost a g<sup>d</sup> many  
Thousand Pounds by / bad Gold they  
had received fm / Inhabitants o this Town  
dur<sup>g</sup> / last Twelve Months.

Abt this time last Year / French Co  
sent here / above Mr. Dubourdieu, to  
agree w / People o Anam abot f<sup>r</sup> Ground  
to build a Fort, wh they agreed to (as I am  
inform'd) f<sup>r</sup> Twelve Thousand Pounds, &  
gave Two o / Chief Cabocers' Sons as Pawns  
f<sup>r</sup> the giv<sup>g</sup> them Ground when they sh<sup>d</sup>  
demand it, on Paym<sup>t</sup> o / above Sum. Mr  
Dubourdieu has brot / Cabocers o /  
Town a g<sup>d</sup> many Presents to remind them  
o the Agreem<sup>t</sup>, & has promised to send  
on<sup>t</sup> Storeships w Stores f<sup>r</sup> build<sup>g</sup> a Fort,  
in Six or Eight Months Time.

On our acquaint<sup>g</sup> Captain Cockburn  
o / Glory, who commanded in / Road, o the  
Manner o proceed<sup>g</sup>, he applied to / French  
Captain & Mr. Dubourdieu was order'd on Board  
Board / 24<sup>th</sup> at Night, & immediately pro-  
ceeded on the Voyage to Leeward to visit the  
Trade, fm whence they were directly to return  
to Europe.

I hope Yr Hon<sup>rs</sup> will excuse my long  
letter, as I think it my Duty to inform Yr Hon<sup>rs</sup>  
o my Proceed<sup>g</sup>s on / Coast by way Opp<sup>y</sup>, & assure  
Yr Hon<sup>rs</sup> t I will omit no Part o / French  
Proceed<sup>g</sup>s on this Coast, t may be prejudicial to  
our Interest, but what I will acquaint Yr Hon<sup>rs</sup>  
w, agreeable to yr Orders. I am - &c -

Edw. J. T.

John Apperley

To the Right Honble / Lieut. Genl & / Honble /  
Prinupal Officers o His Majesty's Ordnance.

at present as they soon expect / French w /  
 Forty Thousand Pound they had promised them  
 Two Year ago to Ground to build the (1 French  
 Fort at one End o / Town.

We had no English Men o War upon /  
 Coast since May last; The French Trade-Ship  
 along / Coast Anchor & Trade in our Rivalls  
 w<sup>t</sup> Interruption o War o Men o War here to  
 Keep them off / English Trade, & / Design o  
 buildg a Fort here is v<sup>y</sup> much hurt by them.

I have nothing fur to add.... Jam - & -  
 John Apperley.

sd J. T.

To the Right Honble / Lieut Gen<sup>l</sup> / Honble / rest o  
 / Principal Officers o H - M's Ordne

[ 1754 ]

Amamaboe, 22<sup>d</sup> Janry 1754.  
 Right Honble & Honble Gen<sup>l</sup>

I beg leave to acquaint Y<sup>r</sup> Honours t<sup>h</sup> I  
 raised / South East Bastion to 12 Feet high  
 above / Foundam likewise / East Curtain, in /  
 Middle o wh<sup>ch</sup> I h<sup>ad</sup> made a Sally Port 6 Feet  
 high & 4 Feet broad in / Clear, agreeable to /  
 Plan & prot<sup>ect</sup> fm England; I h<sup>ad</sup> likewise raised  
 / North East Bastion 18 Feet above / Foundam; I  
 am obliged, to cover / Top o / Wall<sup>s</sup> w<sup>th</sup> Mortar to  
 save them fm / Weather as I h<sup>ad</sup> no Lime to go  
 fur till I h<sup>ad</sup> a Supply fm England, I can get  
 none at present on / Coast o<sup>f</sup> w<sup>h</sup> I want a small  
 Vessels to br<sup>ing</sup> me Shells.

The Inhabitants h<sup>ave</sup> behaved v<sup>y</sup> well  
 f<sup>or</sup> some time past as they begin to think / French  
 h<sup>ave</sup> no Design o<sup>f</sup> com<sup>ing</sup> near them since / English  
 h<sup>ave</sup> begun Buildg; They h<sup>ave</sup> long expected / French  
 Storeships & still expect them Daily, therefore I h<sup>ave</sup>  
 no Dependee on / Continuance o<sup>f</sup> the good Behaviour,  
 wh<sup>ich</sup> makes me hope / Committee will lose no Time

we sendg me a Supply o Lime & Bricks, wh I h  
applied to them b by sev'l letters.

I h nothing fur to add at present. . . .  
I am - &c -

To The Right Honble & Honble / Board o Ordnance  
John Apperley.

Cape Coast Castle, 13<sup>th</sup> June 1754

Rt Honble & Honble Gent<sup>rs</sup>

Since my last o 22<sup>d</sup> Janry by /  
Honble Captain Barrington, I beg leave to ac-  
quaint y<sup>e</sup> t I h stretch'd / North Curtain,  
North West Bastion & half / West Curtain;  
Part o / North Curtain is Nineteen Feet high  
owg to / Declivity o / Ground, & /<sup>st</sup> Part Six-  
teen Feet high, / North West Bastion & /  
above Part o / West Curtain is only Seven  
Feet high, where I h bn obliged to leave  
off Work b want o Lime. I h lost Seven  
Weeks Work since / Lime has bn expended.

I h wrote to / Committee five diff<sup>t</sup>  
letters since 11<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> last, & h represented  
to them in each / Situation I must expect to be  
in b want o Lime & Brick if they did not  
send me a speedy Supply o / above Articles,  
as they h not sent on<sup>t</sup> a Fourth Part o /  
Bricks & Lime demanded in my Estimate  
b Buildg Annamaboe Fort.

I h, in a letter to them o / above Date  
[p 918 supra] made a Demand for Ten Hundred  
Thousand Bricks & Four Hundred Tun o  
Lime, beg Part o / Remainder o / above Estimate;  
wh I hope they will send me w<sup>t</sup> loss o time,  
bce I sh lose / best Season o / Year.

Tho' many o / Co's Forts are on / Coast  
are v<sup>y</sup> much out o Repair, I cannot spare  
them any Artificers fm Annamaboe, as

expecting a Supply of above Materials from England Daily.

I hope y<sup>r</sup> wife not impute my want of Materials to any neglect of mine as I assure y<sup>r</sup> Honours I h<sup>ave</sup> neglected no Opp<sup>ortunitie</sup>, since I began Buildg, & applyg to / Committee of the promised Supply of Materials, & desired them not to trust to what Lime, Stone, or Bricks I cd procure on / Coast, wh<sup>ich</sup> I h<sup>ave</sup> more fully explained to them in / above letter, besides what I h<sup>ave</sup> mentioned on the head in my former Letters from time to time as it occurred to my knowledge.

I h<sup>ave</sup> explain'd to them how indifferently I must expect to be supply'd had they seven convenient Vessels on / Coast (equal w<sup>ith</sup> the Sloop) to bring Lime & Stone from Dixcove (wh<sup>ich</sup> is 100 Miles to Windward of Annamaboe) as / above Sloop is / only Vessel they h<sup>ave</sup> on / Coast, she has brot but one Trip of Lime since / Middle of March last (containing abt ~~13~~ 13 Tun) wh<sup>ich</sup> Lime was expended in Ten Days, therefore / Supply I may reasonably expect from her (in Lime only) having no o<sup>ther</sup> will make / Fort Five or Six Years in Buildg, w<sup>ith</sup> / Articles of Bricks or Stone.

I h<sup>ave</sup> offer'd / Committee my Opinion, back'd w<sup>ith</sup> t<sup>hat</sup> of / Governor & Council of Cape Coast Castle; by / nearest Calculat<sup>ion</sup> I can make / Committee will save at least 500 P. Cent by sendg on<sup>ly</sup> Bricks & Lime from England, besides / g<sup>reat</sup> Diffe<sup>rence</sup> in / Materials & / loss of time they may reasonably expect by my be<sup>ing</sup> supply'd on / Coast, was th<sup>ere</sup> a possibility o so do<sup>ing</sup> where I can see no room I h<sup>ave</sup> to expect it. The Natives, [Fantoms] behaved v<sup>ery</sup> well whilst we continued to Build; but our

breakg off, if want o Materials, had parity  
possessed them we do not intend to proceed  
in our Works any fur<sup>r</sup>, tho' we use all /  
Methods we can to persuade them to /  
contrary, yet they carry th<sup>r</sup> Insults to a g<sup>r</sup>ter  
height than usual, even to deludg away /  
Co's Slaves fm Cape Coast Castle & Annamaboe  
wh they will not return except they are  
paid Half / Value o / Slaves f<sup>r</sup> th<sup>r</sup> Redemp<sup>n</sup>.  
I remain  
Y<sup>r</sup> Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup> John Apperley  
2d 9<sup>t</sup>.  
To [asp 933]

Annamaboe 30<sup>th</sup> October 1754

Right Honble & Honble Gentlemen

I beg leave to acquaint Y<sup>r</sup> Hon-  
ours, since my last o 13<sup>th</sup> June, I h<sup>ve</sup>  
rais'd / 4<sup>th</sup> & last Bastion 11 feet above  
/ Foundam<sup>n</sup>, & / West Curtain to / same  
Height, but cannot proceed any fur<sup>r</sup> till  
I receive / expected Supplies o Bricks & Lime  
fm England, wh I daily expect.

On / Arrival o / first Storeship, I sh<sup>ll</sup>  
raise / South Curtain, wh will inclose / Fort,  
& make me less liable to any Hindrance in /  
Works fm / Natives; then sh<sup>ll</sup> proceed to erect  
/ Barracks, lodge m<sup>ts</sup> &c, / inside

The Natives h<sup>ve</sup> h<sup>ve</sup> very quiet f<sup>r</sup> some  
time past, seeg but little Hopes o / French  
comg to build the Fort, & bringg them lg<sup>g</sup>  
Cargoes o Goods as they promised.

Mr Christopher Whytell, late Gover-  
nor o this Place, died 11<sup>th</sup> July July last, &  
/ Govern<sup>r</sup> & Council o Cape Coast Castle h<sup>ve</sup>

appointed me to succeed him, w<sup>th</sup> a Salary o  
 £200 a Year & an Allowance for my Table, till  
 / Fort is finished, if / Committee in London  
 approve o<sup>r</sup> the Appointment. I hope y will not  
 take it Amiss my acceptg o<sup>r</sup> this Place w<sup>th</sup> y  
 Approban<sup>n</sup>, wh I will cheerfully resign  
 rather than incur y<sup>r</sup> Displeasure; & sh<sup>d</sup>  
 not be accepted o<sup>r</sup> it w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> leave, but / Distce  
 I am at wd not afford me an Oppy o<sup>r</sup> applyg  
 to y<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>rs</sup> for y<sup>r</sup> Approban<sup>n</sup>

I am - &c -  
 John Apperley

To [ason p 929]

1755

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> & Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gent<sup>l</sup>

Give me leave to acknowledge /  
 Receipt o<sup>r</sup> y<sup>r</sup> three letters, Viz<sup>t</sup> two o<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>  
 August & one o<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> last. ~~from~~ I'm /  
 two first y are pleased to order me to send y  
 Plans, Elevans & Sectns o<sup>r</sup> Works I am  
 carryg on, w<sup>th</sup> Plans & Sketches o<sup>r</sup> Country  
 round Annamaboe, t y may be able to judge  
 o<sup>r</sup> Situan<sup>n</sup> & Utility o<sup>r</sup> / Fort.

Give me leave to assure y<sup>r</sup> Honours  
 t nothing can be a g<sup>tr</sup> Pleasure to me than to  
 comply w<sup>th</sup> all / Orders y sh please to send me;  
 but in this respect I am v<sup>y</sup> sorry I cannot give  
 y / Satisfac<sup>n</sup> y expect; f<sup>r</sup> / Natives, thro<sup>g</sup> /  
 Instigam<sup>n</sup> o<sup>r</sup> some ill Wishers to our Buildg a  
 Fort here, are so jealous, o<sup>r</sup> all my Proceedgs,  
 t they keep constant Spies after me; beg  
 possessed o<sup>r</sup> a hon<sup>or</sup> t / Fort I am now  
 buildg, is but a Part o<sup>r</sup> what this Fort

is intended to be when we have secured Possession here.

I have attempted to Survey Part of Country about Town; when / Capuciers & Pinins, who are / Rul'g Men in Town, sent me Word if I did not leave off measuring the Country as they call'd it they wd immediately stop / Works at / Fort w<sup>t</sup> giving me any fair Reason, wh made me leave off for Time.

I have since attempted to take a Sketch of Town & Part of Country round it; but / Natives guess'd what I was abt, & had really gone to / Fort to stop / Works; when I thot it necessary to persist no fur<sup>r</sup> in it for present. I have consulted w<sup>th</sup> / Braboe & Senators, who are / Heads of Fanteen & w<sup>th</sup> old John Curran teem, who is Captain of this Town, abt what was necessary for me to do as I had Orders of Transmitt<sup>l</sup> home a Plan of Town & / Country abt it; They advised me to leave it alone until I had secured myself in / Fort, then I m<sup>g</sup> do as I pleased, but now there was no Possibility of doing anyth<sup>g</sup> as / Natives were not pleased w<sup>th</sup> it.

Tho' this Advice is contrary to y<sup>r</sup> Orders, I am under a Necessity of follow<sup>g</sup> it or have / Works entirely Stop<sup>d</sup>. I hope, from / Situa<sup>n</sup> I am in y<sup>r</sup> Honours will overlook this breach of y<sup>r</sup> Command, as I do it to keep in Friendship w<sup>th</sup> / Natives, w<sup>th</sup> a View to promote / publick Service here as much as I possibly can.

Give me leave to assure y<sup>r</sup> Honours that I will take any Oppy of collect<sup>g</sup> &

forming such a Plan as will give y / Satisfac-  
 tion y / expect<sup>n</sup>; wh I will transmit to  
 y when done. w / best Accts I can col-  
 lect t are worthy o yr Observa<sup>n</sup>.

I h / however to acquaint y t I h brot  
 / Walls o / Fort quite round, / lowest part o  
 / Wall beg 11 Feet & / highest Part 19 feet  
 above / Founda<sup>n</sup>.

I am abt / inward Wall, 110 feet long  
 & now 9 Feet high, for turning / Arch f a Plat-  
 form on / Curtain next / Sea, wh, on neces-  
 sity, w / two Bastions adjoining to it, will  
 mount 32 Pieces o Cannon, 6 & 9 or 12  
 Pounds, as soon as / above Arch is turn'd  
 I sh begin layg / Founda<sup>n</sup> o / Barracks, &  
 raisg / outward Wall, as I go on, to /  
 Height o / Cordon.

The Committee h sent me since Christmas  
 last, 240,000 Bricks & 220 Tons o Lime,  
 & they promise to keep me well supplied w  
 those articles f / future.

I h 4 Black & One white Brick  
 Bricklayers on / Wall, w 22 Labourers f  
 attendg / Brick layers & Quarry in Stone  
 wh I get a few o by Plyng Blowg / Rocks  
 in / Middle o / Fort. I am - &c -

Annamabor

John Appuley

11th April 1755

Exc'd W<sup>th</sup>. To [as on p 929]

[End o W O 55 1814]

Tyo/1478

John Roberts Letter Book

[1702-55  
1703  
1780.]

London letter 3<sup>d</sup> 1752.

Thomas Boteler Esq

of y<sup>e</sup> ... had bin concerned w<sup>th</sup>  
some people fm Barbados in a Vessel w<sup>th</sup> Rum  
to / Coast, as y<sup>e</sup> know they is no dog w<sup>th</sup> t<sup>e</sup>  
Article in our Trade, & if there are ever so  
many Rum Vessels y<sup>e</sup> can't be insensible  
of advantages y<sup>e</sup> can make o<sup>f</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Rum  
more than / Traders can either by buying it  
or in o<sup>r</sup> Shapes, y<sup>e</sup> are no stranger to,  
I wish y<sup>e</sup> had determined upon something  
as it g<sup>o</sup>ly imbarasses me to think y<sup>e</sup>  
are not steady in executg / Plan we  
proposed. I am now fittg on a  
Cargo (o<sup>f</sup> 200 Slaves consigned to Mr  
Husbands) as fine as ever went upon /  
Coast & expected y<sup>e</sup> wd<sup>l</sup> bin there w<sup>th</sup> a  
Rum Cargo at / same time Am surpris-  
ezed y<sup>e</sup> think o<sup>f</sup> carryg Rum from  
Barbados. I sh<sup>d</sup> dispatch a  
Vessel old Tarlton has bot upon w<sup>th</sup> a  
freight of 1500 in Goods f<sup>r</sup> Mr Husbands  
till such time as our Affairs are settled  
& we get our money into hand. . . .

I h<sup>d</sup> two l<sup>et</sup>rs fm Mr Husbands  
one 25<sup>th</sup> April / o<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> June & . . . / former l<sup>et</sup>ter  
more in y<sup>e</sup> than to advise y<sup>e</sup> departure. The  
hd a gr<sup>e</sup> Palaver w<sup>th</sup> his Wench & A Jamaicaon who  
ts found hath carryed on a long & unuual  
Conversa<sup>n</sup> w<sup>th</sup> her & had found a Design to Rob  
him. The hd made his Palaver in / Town

& had gr<sup>t</sup> Satisfac<sup>n</sup> given him t<sup>o</sup> Mackeial &  
 himself were not upon Speakeg Terms &  
 Melvil & he not upon / best bec he carried  
 or more Trade than those 12.

I am in no Sort o<sup>f</sup> doubt, but to present  
 / Officers o<sup>f</sup> /fforts have / liberty o<sup>f</sup> Trade  
 when / Parlyam<sup>t</sup> meets, most people beg o<sup>f</sup>  
 Opinion they shd not, & ther is an Order  
 gone fm / Board o<sup>f</sup> Trade already to not  
 Melvil to give over all chots o<sup>f</sup> plant<sup>s</sup>  
 Cotton &c. I hope y will by some  
 means or o<sup>r</sup> Scheme do so as to get ont  
 to husbands w<sup>a</sup> Cargo o<sup>f</sup> Rum, as he  
 will be in gr<sup>t</sup> want o<sup>f</sup> y, as y may be  
 assured I will find y business enough  
 ... Y<sup>r</sup> Assured &c

Bristol, Mr Wm Wansey. Lond. <sup>[1752]</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1745. [sic!]

I am favoured w<sup>th</sup> Y<sup>r</sup> o<sup>f</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup>.  
 The Committee's Ship past all doub<sup>t</sup>  
 carried Slaves off, Capt. Douglas sailed  
 ab<sup>t</sup> a month ago to Holland f<sup>r</sup> Dutch  
 Goods to complete his Cargo, fm thence steers  
 directly f<sup>r</sup> C.C. Castle. And<sup>r</sup> Vessel is  
 fittg out belongg to / Same Owners, fm /  
 above &c &c I am led to ask what /  
 present manner o<sup>f</sup> manag<sup>g</sup> Affairs, is  
 more or less f<sup>r</sup> Advantage o<sup>f</sup> Adventurers  
 whether by Shippg than when / Settlements  
 were under Direc<sup>n</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Old Co who f<sup>r</sup> some  
 years past sent no Ships to Slave on  
 th<sup>r</sup> own Acc<sup>t</sup>, nor suffered th<sup>r</sup> Servants  
 to Trade or then w<sup>th</sup> th<sup>r</sup> Goods to support  
 /fforts & Settlements, & / Slaves procured

were sold to separate Trade Ships to advantage  
of Owners, one time & Circumstance Considered  
w<sup>o</sup> An<sup>d</sup> instead of prejudice

Upon / present Posture, / by the I ch<sup>o</sup> &  
hoped was to be guarded ag<sup>t</sup> is established  
(i.e.) a Joint Stock Co. The Gov<sup>t</sup> & Council  
o<sup>f</sup> CC. Castle in Combina<sup>n</sup> w<sup>o</sup> / Out-Chiefs  
o<sup>f</sup> Forts &c h<sup>o</sup> found a joint Stock in reality,  
& by the Superior force to Engross / Trade &  
Profits arising therefrom are confirming [sic] such  
Fund to carry on / Trade Vigorously thro<sup>u</sup>,  
these Premises considered & the Means o<sup>f</sup>  
hav<sup>g</sup> Goods by Ships immediately for Europe,  
is sufficient (tho' almost in its Infancy)  
to bear down all before it. And forewell  
Advantage from a Commanders Refuse  
Cargo. Consider well / Advantages o<sup>f</sup> /  
Caylle - Warehouses to Secure Property in -  
Slaves, Cannonmen, & or Servants together w<sup>o</sup>  
/ People in powers Salaries &c &c & judge  
wh<sup>o</sup> any separate Trader can deal on a  
foot<sup>g</sup> w<sup>o</sup> them; or send off Slaves to so good  
Acct. Can it be supposed these Confederates  
will sell them on / Coast when they can make  
more Profit by send<sup>g</sup> / Slaves off. Indeed  
Some o<sup>f</sup> worst purchases may be exposed  
for Sale, but depend, / Prime & best will  
be put by to send to market themselves; or  
to oblige in a more singular manner /  
friends o<sup>f</sup> the Party in this Grand Metro-  
politan. The above beg sufficient why need  
I men<sup>n</sup> / Certainty, / charming Satisfaction o<sup>f</sup>  
receiv<sup>g</sup> a good Cargo annually from /  
Committee to Sport w<sup>o</sup> & Assort<sup>g</sup> Goods out o<sup>f</sup>.  
Much may be sd on this head wh<sup>o</sup> at  
present Time permits not. I hope in a Month  
/ pleasure to kiss yr hand at Bristol, &  
th<sup>o</sup> to consult & point out some Means to

Stem / Torrent o'ffort Officers Tradg re.  
 this, En Passant, all I see y. Be assured  
 I sh give all / Assistance Capable o to Model  
 thgs f / Gen Good w<sup>t</sup> reserve.

Fromy part, sh not be v<sup>y</sup> fond o Con-  
 cerns in Rum Vessels f<sup>m</sup> / Islands, y well  
 observg / same are genly but badly fitted  
 out, & am o yr Opinion an Adventure  
 f<sup>m</sup> Boston may turn to acct. thg it wd be  
 better f<sup>m</sup> Rhode Island as I think Rum  
 cheaper th<sup>r</sup>. It does not at present.

Suit me to be engaged, havg, y know,  
 largely advanced f<sup>m</sup> maintenance o' Forts,  
 till t<sup>e</sup> Money is secure, Affairs point  
 out t<sup>e</sup> I geth Satisficd to go on fair &  
 Soft, however I will consider fur ab<sup>t</sup>  
 it in few days & give / best Inform<sup>n</sup> I can

The Secret o' African  
 Trade lyg mostly on / Choice o a good  
 proper Cargo, & manag<sup>r</sup> / Same Cleverly  
 on / Coast.

I cannot really tell what to think o/  
 ffrench Measures at Annamaboa, Con-  
 jectures respectg / same beg so Various  
 y perceive by all acct<sup>s</sup> many Ships o  
 t<sup>e</sup> Fran are on / Coast, & I really fancy  
 they will not Abandon / Enterprize so  
 easy as some may imagine. One thg I am  
 Sure o, they will not lose in th<sup>r</sup> Efforts,  
 nor / British Trade be Extended whilst  
 M - v - l is th<sup>r</sup>, / Generality Condemn  
 & despise him, & certain Eyes may be  
 Open perhaps when too late, I sincerely  
 pray thgs may turn out to yr wishes & am - &c -

Mr W<sup>m</sup> Davies

14 October

This will be deliver'd or forwarded to y<sup>e</sup>  
by Capt<sup>n</sup> Thompson, Commanding <sup>of</sup> / Ship  
Hullifax, recommended by a friend & mine  
Mr Sam Touchet his owner, who has given  
Capt. Thompson Orders to purchase Slaves  
w<sup>th</sup> Bills o<sup>f</sup> Exchange, therefore as I know y<sup>e</sup>  
want to realize, take this Oppy to Assure y<sup>e</sup>  
if y<sup>e</sup> Supply him w<sup>th</sup> any number o<sup>f</sup> Good  
Slaves Cap. Thompson's Bills upon Mr  
Touchet & / Am<sup>t</sup>'s what y<sup>e</sup> may deliver  
him will be punctually paid. If y<sup>e</sup> can  
render him any Services either by  
recommending him to / Davies Governour or  
y<sup>e</sup> Neighbour / Dutch Chief you'll thereby  
infinitely oblige

Mr William Hubbard.

London, 15<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1752.

I wrote y<sup>e</sup> a Letter / 24<sup>th</sup> Aug [not in this  
br. book] containing abt 5 sheets & forwarded it  
as advised in my letter / first o<sup>f</sup> September  
[m.c.] by Capt<sup>n</sup> Douglas. I sh<sup>ll</sup> forward Dup-  
licates thro<sup>gh</sup> in a few Days by / Ship Albania  
John Gilbert Master, Chartered by / Committee  
to Carry Materials to build / ffort at Annama-  
boa, but Carrys also on acct<sup>o</sup> of Owners,  
a Cargo to purchase 200 Slaves t<sup>h</sup> I h<sup>ave</sup> chose<sup>n</sup> f<sup>r</sup>  
them, an Invoice o<sup>f</sup> wh<sup>ch</sup> I send y<sup>e</sup> inclosed  
f<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup>, therefore you'll do well to search  
as many Slaves f<sup>r</sup> him as y<sup>e</sup> possibly can,  
either by preserving those y<sup>e</sup> may h<sup>ave</sup> y<sup>e</sup>self, or  
engag<sup>ing</sup> Davies or any o<sup>th</sup> Person you know has  
Slaves to keep till he arrives, as you'll see he  
by / Invoice he has a Choice Cargo, & y<sup>e</sup> may  
be assured / Goods are / best t<sup>h</sup> can be got as

I have / Entire Manage<sup>mt</sup> of fittg them out  
 & / Ship belongs to Messrs Beckford Ashley  
 & Collett & so y know I want to market  
 on good Terms. I expect Mr Beckford  
 in Town in a few days when I doubt not  
 his comg into / Scheme, & takg me by /  
 hand to carry our Affairs on in Parliam<sup>nt</sup>.  
 he is a powerful man & will carry / City  
 & London & / Planters Interest along w<sup>th</sup>  
 him, he was lately made an Alderman &  
 will be a Member of / City next Gen Elec<sup>tm</sup>.

I am in hopes / Cargo is so such an  
 Assort<sup>mt</sup> of y send to / Traders at  
 Annamaboa & let em know this is fresh  
 Goods comg to y & must be w<sup>th</sup> y in 3 or  
 4 days as soon as this (if not before) t<sup>h</sup>  
 they will keep / slaves for y when y h<sup>ave</sup>  
 Choice Goods to pay for em. He is bound  
 to Jamaica & in consequence will want  
 grown Slaves...

Recd y<sup>r</sup> Ltr of 21<sup>st</sup> Apr & 4<sup>th</sup> June ...  
 sh answer them fully by Capt Gilbert I am  
 in no doubt to beg M<sup>rs</sup> to bear to prevent  
 / Officers of Forts tradg soon at / Board of  
 Trade meetg wh they h<sup>ave</sup> not done since  
 we b<sup>een</sup> at home. / West<sup>ern</sup> conting so fine  
 this is scarce anybody at / Court end of  
 / Town, beg in / Country of w<sup>th</sup> King at  
 Hambores, who is expected home begining  
 a next Month.

I am desired to go to Bristol & Liver-  
 pool by some of / Principle Guinea Merchants  
 to concert Measures to prevent Trade  
 in / Ports by / Committees Officers & sh go  
 thither soon as I h<sup>ave</sup> dispatched Tarlton  
 ... . ev<sup>er</sup> one knows y are Capable of transactg  
 affairs in / Court more so than any person  
 but they are afraid you're too fond of  
 gettg Money, I tell y as a friend peoples

Opinion here I know of act b / best, therefore  
leave it entirely to y. / name o a fair hard  
trader can never hurt y & I am persuaded y  
never put it in / power o anyone w Justice to  
say aught else o y ... R. J. R.

Mrs W<sup>m</sup> Hubbards Lond 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1752

This will be delivered to y by Mrs  
John Apperly who is app<sup>d</sup> chief Engineer to  
rebuild / Fort at Annamahoa. Sd Gent<sup>n</sup>  
was recommended to me in a part<sup>r</sup> manner by  
my good Friend / honble Tom Vaughn & he is  
one y will find as I h, find Worthy y<sup>r</sup>  
Acquaintance, therefore beg y will render him  
wy Service in y<sup>r</sup> power & give him advice  
how to manage w respect to procuring necessarys  
or aught else he may want, in do<sup>d</sup> wh you'll  
J. R.

Bristol, Messrs Tong & Son Lond. 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 52.

Yrs o 28<sup>th</sup> yber hand me no sooner  
than y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Inst.

Its confessed I much fear / price o Slaves will  
be heightened more than ever, & / Trade under /  
present plan w<sup>t</sup> gr amendments, suffer g<sup>r</sup>ly.  
Indeed it wd be almost irrational to think  
otherwise whilst / Fort Officers are permitted  
to enter into combinations & form a joint  
Stock in opposing to free Traders, is a Com-  
mander, when fitted out & at daily at a  
growing expence & charge, upon any Sort o  
equality in trade w / Servants o / Committee  
wh<sup>o</sup> h<sup>o</sup> power to Command Trade, / Cos Ware-  
houses, free, Servants, Cornes, Dorkes & Medicines  
w<sup>t</sup> Charge, w<sup>t</sup> good Salaries & / Gov<sup>s</sup> Choice  
Goods to supply themselves on<sup>o</sup> ? Can /  
Master o a Vessel expect to dispose o his  
Refuse Cargo on / Coast to Persons who are  
well supplied fm time to time w Goods fm

the Party in England? Or can he expect to  
 buy a few slaves at any tolerable advantage  
 from Persons who can transport 'em to /  
 West Indies themselves, or keep 'em to supply  
 / people concerned w<sup>th</sup> 'em. By these des-  
 tructive measures, in my Opinion / merchants  
 will soon expire t<sup>e</sup> / trade to Africa is  
 g<sup>o</sup>ly prejudic'd & contracted, instead o<sup>f</sup>  
 beg<sup>g</sup> encouraged & extended. I'll ven-  
 ture to affirm w<sup>th</sup> Slave t<sup>e</sup> is sent off /  
 Coast by / Servants tradg in / Forts &  
 Cables is a Grievance & damage to / mer-  
 chants, by not beg<sup>g</sup> disposed o<sup>f</sup> to the  
 Shippg. In fact no tolerable trade will  
 be made w<sup>th</sup> / Officers o<sup>f</sup> Settlements are  
 allow'd such Liberty. . . . I hope w<sup>th</sup> soon  
 / how o<sup>f</sup> Kissg y<sup>e</sup> hand at Bristol & / Oppy  
 o<sup>f</sup> consultg on some Method how to lop off  
 certain ~~exercises~~ so mischievous & pre-  
 judicial to / Gen Trade, it beg<sup>g</sup> a chg<sup>e</sup> I've  
 always hd g<sup>o</sup>ly at heart, . . . J.R.

Bristol Mr Wansley Lond. 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 52

Was pleas'd w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup>s / 11<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> date, &  
 attend to / distinguishg & just observations  
 thereon relatg to / Trade, as to a Journey to  
 Liverpool to Alarm / Merchants o<sup>f</sup> t<sup>e</sup> Quarter.  
 I am rejoic'd Mr Hardham will be  
 favour'd w<sup>th</sup> a dra<sup>ft</sup> from y<sup>e</sup> abt<sup>r</sup> it. No Stone  
 o<sup>f</sup> to be left untoward to crush / Grand  
 Evil, we sh<sup>ll</sup> soon so sensibly feel, & lop  
 it, as y<sup>e</sup> hint, in its Luxuriance.

f<sup>r</sup> t<sup>e</sup> Purpose I sh<sup>ll</sup> (expeditious as  
 time will permit) sit down to prepare a  
 proper Remonstrance to / Gentlemen o<sup>f</sup> those  
 Parts; wh<sup>ch</sup> if it meets y<sup>r</sup> approbation

when I come to Bristol, sh he transmitted  
to Lescerpool, it beg impossible & imprudent  
f me in / present<sup>r</sup> hurry o Business to  
attempt a Journey thither.

Africa, W<sup>m</sup> Ansoh. Lon. 27<sup>th</sup> Oct: 1752

On my dand<sup>r</sup> I in England yr dres were  
safe conducted to Lord Halifax who, as I find  
fm all hands, recd a read / same w<sup>g</sup>t Satisfac<sup>n</sup>.  
it has not bin possible f me to do anything in  
yr behalf w<sup>th</sup> yr nobleman till he comes to  
London f / Winter, y<sup>h</sup> will not be 'till / end o  
next Month, his Majesty beg ab Hanovers  
& / Summer hav<sup>g</sup> bin f / most part favourable  
& pleasant few persons o distinction h bin in  
Town, as y can truly judge fm / Experience youve  
made yrself o / diff<sup>r</sup> in Summer betw<sup>n</sup> /  
Charm o / Country & London. depend on my  
Interest & Industry to serve y, as y well deserve  
respect, & Lord Halifax sh be fully  
told so, so often as Occas<sup>n</sup> presents, no  
doubt before this reacheth y heard o / Stores  
& Materials sent out by 5 Ships fm / Gov<sup>r</sup>  
towards rebuild<sup>g</sup> / Castle at Annamaboa. Cap<sup>t</sup>  
Gilbert who delivers this is one o / 5, he is  
my friend & a v<sup>y</sup> deserv<sup>g</sup> man, he intends  
to follow / Trade to Annamaboa & if he  
meets encourage<sup>mt</sup>, & can be o v<sup>y</sup> g<sup>t</sup> Service  
to y, hav<sup>g</sup> much Interest & many friends  
specially am<sup>g</sup> / best people in London, if C.  
Gilbert meets Success I sh be concern<sup>d</sup> w<sup>th</sup> him  
in carry<sup>g</sup> on / Fartym Trade w<sup>th</sup> Spirit & /  
best o Goods, I therefore desire y to render  
him any Service he may want either in  
Traffic, necessaries or o<sup>r</sup>wise, I recommend

me

him to y<sup>r</sup> in g<sup>t</sup> confidence you'll oblige / ~~me~~  
 & do him all / services in y<sup>r</sup> power w<sup>ch</sup>  
 y<sup>r</sup> father, to whom I desire you'll pre-  
 sent my Compliments & A Kiss & t<sup>h</sup> I hope  
 he'll assist Cap<sup>t</sup>. Gilbert, let y<sup>r</sup> father  
 understand he sh<sup>ll</sup> soon hear fm me I  
 can repeat, I sh<sup>ll</sup> always be mindfull to  
 serve him & y<sup>r</sup> self to y<sup>r</sup> desire &  
 content. Sev<sup>l</sup> Men o<sup>f</sup> War at Plymouth  
 ready to sail f<sup>r</sup> Annamaboa, do all  
 y<sup>e</sup> can to frustrate / Designs o<sup>f</sup> French  
 & Assist<sup>r</sup> / British Traders who are  
 heartily y<sup>r</sup> friends well as J<sup>r</sup>.  
 P.S. I desire to hear fm y<sup>e</sup> o<sup>f</sup> all / news  
 by / first oppy

To Cudjo Lond. 24<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 52.

This I send to acquit y<sup>e</sup> on my  
 Arriv<sup>l</sup> in Lond<sup>n</sup> I del<sup>d</sup> / Tyger & Boy to /  
 Prince o<sup>f</sup> Wales, who was exceed<sup>g</sup> well  
 pleas'd th<sup>r</sup> w<sup>th</sup> & has order'd g<sup>t</sup> care to be  
 taken o<sup>f</sup> Boy as to his Education & good  
 usage. At / same time I must not forget  
 to tell his Royal [sic] Express a g<sup>t</sup> deal o<sup>f</sup>  
 Gratitude & respect f<sup>r</sup> Cudjo inquir'd in a  
 particular manner after y<sup>e</sup> to wh<sup>ch</sup> I gave as  
 true & worthy Answers (wh<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>e</sup> really  
 deserve) as I was able to do. Since t<sup>h</sup> time  
 / Prince has bin out o<sup>f</sup> London, / Summer has  
 bin fine, but I understand he returns in a  
 day or two, & sh<sup>ll</sup> wait on his Royal Highness  
 soon after. Lord Halifax hath also bin  
 in / Country ever since my com<sup>g</sup> to Eng-  
 land, as indeed hath my Person o<sup>f</sup>  
 Quality f<sup>r</sup> / Summer (as before observed)

having proved pleasant & favourable, & / King beg  
at Hanover, where he still continues, no Person o  
disting<sup>n</sup> has resided in Town, beginning o next  
month I hear Lord Halifax comes to London f  
/ Winter, depend therefore on my hearty in-  
clinans to serve y w<sup>t</sup> worthy Noblemen & t  
soon as ye Parliamt meets, I sh make applica<sup>n</sup>  
f / money due to Mrs Husbonds Boteler &  
Self, at w<sup>h</sup> time sh not forget to make strong  
remonstrances o Cudjoes good services & Expence  
in defendg / Interest<sup>s</sup> o / English.

The Bearer is Com<sup>r</sup> o one o ys 5 ships t  
brgs on<sup>t</sup> materials f Rebuildg / Fortness at  
Arnamaboa, he is my w<sup>y</sup> worthy friend &  
intends pursug / trade if he meets success, thro  
gr faith in Cudjo I recomm<sup>nd</sup> him as a  
man deservg all / Services, either w regard  
to trade, necessaries or o<sup>r</sup>wise I can well  
be renderd him & w<sup>h</sup> I hope y my friend  
Cudjo will do me / fav<sup>r</sup>: to be aidg in as  
'tis in no mans power at C. C. to do a  
Commander more service than yrself. Cap<sup>t</sup>  
Gilbert has gr Interest in London & y w<sup>ill</sup>  
he no los<sup>r</sup> by servg him, I hope my friend  
Frederic is well, his good Services sh not  
be forgot, nor sh this gran be ignorant  
thr of. I desire to hear fr<sup>m</sup> him by w<sup>y</sup> oppy  
or mo<sup>t</sup>g will give me g<sup>ter</sup> Satisfac<sup>n</sup> than to  
hear o both yr healths, & t trade goes on to  
yr Satisfac<sup>n</sup>. I h sent Mrs Husbonds w<sup>y</sup>  
necessary I can think o, possibly think o,  
therefore am sure Cudjo w<sup>ill</sup> not want  
whilst he has it. Sh send a Hogshead o Porter  
if can get any o Captains to take it. sev<sup>l</sup> men  
o War are now ready to sail f Arnamaboa under  
Admiral Watson & Commodore Buckle, so t if  
1 French shd send out ano<sup>r</sup> Squadron, /

950  
Fantoms may h a chance to see a Sea  
fight. y<sup>e</sup> sh<sup>e</sup> Bears fur<sup>r</sup> me by Cap<sup>t</sup>  
Tarlton who sails hence in 14 days. I  
agn recommend Capt Gilbert to y<sup>e</sup> & hope  
you'll do him all Services &c JA.

To Acca

24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 52

I send this to acq<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> t<sup>e</sup> I arrived Safe  
in England in June last & h taken proper  
care o<sup>f</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Son who is v<sup>y</sup> well & likely to make  
a sensible Man, he's much improved in  
Language & Speaks it almost as well as if  
hed<sup>e</sup> bin born in this Country. I Air agrees  
w<sup>th</sup> him v<sup>y</sup> well, & depend, Acca, y<sup>e</sup> Son  
sh<sup>e</sup> not want all due & proper encourage<sup>mt</sup>  
fr<sup>m</sup> myself & friends

Since y<sup>e</sup> h<sup>e</sup> bin in London no Persons  
o<sup>f</sup> Quality h<sup>e</sup> bin in Town on Acct<sup>o</sup> / fine  
Summer we've had & his Majesty be<sup>g</sup> at  
Hampton, Soon as y<sup>e</sup> d<sup>e</sup> J<sup>e</sup> & o<sup>r</sup> Noblemen  
come to London fr<sup>m</sup> the Courts or Country  
Houses to Stay f<sup>r</sup> / Winter, sh<sup>e</sup> not fail o<sup>f</sup>  
promot<sup>g</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Interest, by inform<sup>g</sup> em o<sup>f</sup> y<sup>e</sup>  
honesty, Bravery, Courage & Strong Attach<sup>mt</sup>  
to / British Interest in gallantly & bravely  
defend<sup>g</sup> Discover ag<sup>t</sup> / Natives & Dutch  
our Enemies. y<sup>e</sup> may depend also Soon as  
Parliam<sup>t</sup> meets, I sh<sup>e</sup> take gr<sup>t</sup> pains to  
let em know / losses y<sup>e</sup> sustained &  
hard Usage recd<sup>d</sup> in, & since / Ahamta  
War, the [fore?] hope you'll be easy  
w<sup>th</sup> head, as noth<sup>g</sup> sh<sup>e</sup> be want<sup>g</sup> to  
get compensa<sup>on</sup> f<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Suffer<sup>g</sup>s  
Bearer o<sup>f</sup> this is C. Gilbert Com<sup>d</sup>  
o<sup>f</sup> one o<sup>f</sup> 5 Ships t<sup>e</sup> br<sup>g</sup> Bruck & Lime

out towards rebuild? / Port of Annamaboa  
he is my worthy friend & as such I recommend  
him to Acca & desire he may be rendered all /  
service in yr Power, wh its hoped you'll not  
fail dog as C. Gilbert is deservg o it, & whom  
I recommend Acca. to go on Board, knowing well /  
Captain will use y generously. This Ship  
sails so expeditiously I sh not time to send anything,  
unless a Cheese, wh I desire Acca. to receive, &  
be assured to hear fm me by Capt Tarleton  
by whom I sh send a better Dashie here are  
several stout Ships o War some Eger than were  
on / Coast ready to sail to protect / Trade  
at Annamaboa. so t shd / french make  
any Attempts th. will be more heady &  
swifts lost than in all / Busha' fight, however  
adieu  
J R.

To Capt Gilbert at Coates, 4 Nov<sup>r</sup> 52.  
... Conjecture you'll endeavour  
to make Cape Palmas / first land to fall  
in w, if so take care to keep in sight o  
land after ab thz gently Points a Strong  
Curt round t Point, wh by many Ships  
h been Cast into / Bight, not bn able to  
beat up to Annamaboa f 6 or 8 weeks, wh  
I don't in ye least suspect will be yr Case  
but as y ve not bn upon yr Coast f a long  
time, & as I'm sincerely interested in yr success  
I can't omit any hints I judge serviceable.  
Perhaps y stop at St Andrews & find  
many Slaves to be bot thz, wh if y  
can purchase fm 9 to 11 £ p. head good  
men, I think you'll be in / right to do it, but  
y must take care in Barterg f em not to  
part w any ~~Bejuda pants~~ Bejuda pants  
or Negame pants except a Blue one on a  
fine Slave. dispose o yr Chillies, Checks,  
Pipes, Iron Bars, some Gunpowder wh y shd  
h in small Kegs o 4 lbs o powder each, yr

to take yr Gold & Trade of  
 Deliver Mr Senior's / Packets to dis-  
 patch to Mr Husband's, when y<sup>e</sup> come  
 abreast / Westward o' C. G. Town, hurr a  
 Jack at yr fore topmast head, when he'll  
 see y<sup>e</sup>, & y<sup>e</sup>'ll advise what's best to be  
 done, we enjoyn'd him to employ all  
 his thro't for yr Interest, to be curious in  
 / choice o' Slaves, & give y<sup>e</sup> / best direct<sup>ns</sup>  
 he can, put his Goods on Shore on yr Arri-  
 val & let him buy as many Slaves o' Goods  
 as he Wants to assort himself w<sup>th</sup>, as  
 th'by y<sup>e</sup> & he will Command / Trade o'  
 two Capital Markets, he'll put on Board  
 y<sup>e</sup> one o' our young Gents to assist y<sup>e</sup> at  
 Annamaboa, & Mr Husband's will paye  
 y<sup>e</sup> all Necessaries y<sup>e</sup> may want, & o' best  
 Kinds, & when y<sup>e</sup> are ready to sail, Ship  
 / Same on Board y<sup>e</sup> in a day or two, &  
 take / Goods y<sup>e</sup> h<sup>ave</sup> left on hand, & Bills  
 upon me, he'll recommend James Hinch  
 to look after yr Slaves & assist y<sup>e</sup>, forget  
 not at Dixons to beg o' / Earth accord<sup>g</sup>  
 to Acco's Direct<sup>ns</sup>.

When in y<sup>e</sup> road o' Annamaboa Keep  
 yr Prices & Assortments to yrself so as  
 not to inform yr Brother Commanders;  
 make use o' / Tre given to William, take  
 on Board 6 yr Traders Lt Quansah or  
 Quacco Yarnboo, take care y<sup>e</sup> ~~trust~~ on trust  
 neither w<sup>th</sup> good Pawns for a time limited,  
 Keep yr Cabbin Windows secure, as y<sup>e</sup>  
 are frequent freq<sup>t</sup> Instances o' Ships be<sup>g</sup>  
 robbed in / night, don't suffer / Negroes  
 to go down into yr Cabbin, put a Centry  
 to prevent 'em, Observe y<sup>e</sup> may find  
 at Annamaboa goods in demand y<sup>e</sup> h<sup>ave</sup>  
 not in such Care apply to Mr Husband  
 who will assort y<sup>e</sup>, depend no man on

yr Coast is Capable o puttg y into a more bene-  
ficial method o Trade than himself, therefore  
consult him on all Occas. As you'll see  
Ludjo Cabocher o L.C. recommend me to  
him, & assure him his affairs sh not be  
forgot in England. If Mr Husband's thinks  
well o Trade is dull, dispatch yr gr Boat  
to Po Po - apply to him f Carves &c if  
wanted, keep Trade Brandy in yr Case f  
1 Negroes Watered 30 p. Ct. & be liberal  
thru with as y find Trade or want dispatch  
Provisions you'll buy f 1 Worsk o yr Goods.  
Show this to Mr Husband's, who are / only  
Instruc<sup>ns</sup> I know Worthy yr Inform<sup>n</sup>,  
therefore wishg y health & a prosperous  
Voyage. I remain I R.

To Mr Husband's 4th Novr 1752

Refer y to my vres pres p Capt Gilbert  
& hope you'll do wrythg in yr power f him. he'll  
show y a drc I sent him this Post to Cassey, beg  
Instruc<sup>ns</sup> how to manage on yr Coast, by wh you'll  
perceive how desirous I am he sd make a good Voyage  
before doubt not yr givg him / Urmost dispatch  
my Scheme thins beg to engage Messrs Beckford  
Pitiley Collett ~~etc~~ &c to be Egely concern'd w us  
till we can recover our money advanced, wh  
may not be this year as it is gently imagin'd  
Parliam<sup>t</sup> will smot do more than refer our  
Accts to Com<sup>rs</sup> to be exam<sup>d</sup> & Vote o money next  
Sesm in consequence o thr Report. I hope to h a Vote  
in our favour & to secure our whole demand, be  
assured no stone sh be left unturn'd to effect it.  
You'll receive herewith a power o  
Attorney f y to sign & fill up w my name if  
y judge proper, to receive / money voted y p.  
Parliam<sup>t</sup> . . . . . by Capt Tarlton I write to  
Wisters & Dages on t subject, who are hard  
used, to be fine. Chrichton Chalmer & Craik

used anybody ill y<sup>r</sup> were not on / spot . . .

Observe y<sup>r</sup> Bre o 21<sup>st</sup> Apr . . . & sh<sup>d</sup> make  
proper use o y<sup>r</sup> hints ab<sup>t</sup> Melvill . . .

I pay Mrs Stockwell for her Supp<sup>t</sup> a ge<sup>o</sup>ry week  
& is y<sup>e</sup> opinion y<sup>t</sup> to h<sup>e</sup> secured y<sup>r</sup> self what  
y<sup>e</sup> engaged f<sup>r</sup> w<sup>th</sup> Stockwell, y<sup>e</sup> beg looked upon as  
paymaster, therefore y<sup>e</sup> to take care to secure  
y<sup>r</sup> self & me, if Cap<sup>t</sup> Gilbert does not meet  
him at C. Apolonia he leavey / dre [addressed  
to Governor Stockwell - n.c.] & Powers w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup>, wh<sup>o</sup>  
get Stockwell to execute . . .

I hope y<sup>e</sup> trade w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> French or any  
na<sup>m</sup> advantage is to be got of, as y<sup>e</sup> are  
under no restraint but to make y<sup>e</sup> most y<sup>e</sup> com.  
a French man offers to be concerned w<sup>th</sup>  
me to send out a Ship f<sup>r</sup> 5 or 800 Slaves to be  
pd f<sup>r</sup> in Bills o Exchange or Goods, many  
English Gent<sup>l</sup> h<sup>e</sup> made / some proposal, but I  
w<sup>o</sup>ld not engage 'till I heard f<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> . . . . .  
JR

Cap<sup>t</sup> Gilbert at Caves Lond 4 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1752

Beg to refer y<sup>e</sup> to my Bre o this  
date, this is desire y<sup>e</sup> when y<sup>e</sup> Stop at  
Cape Apolonia, to Enquire if Mr  
Stockwell is ~~the~~ y<sup>e</sup>, if he is write a Bre  
to him, & desire him to come on Board  
y<sup>r</sup> Ship, pray send / dre on shore but  
'don't he prevaild on to go y<sup>r</sup> self as  
tis a bad Landg place . . . . .  
JR

To Mr Husband. London 6<sup>th</sup> Oc<sup>r</sup> [sic] 52

My last 4<sup>th</sup> Inst [supra] P

Cap<sup>t</sup> Gilbert

Be vy part<sup>r</sup> in y<sup>r</sup> advices ab<sup>t</sup>  
Melvill's Manage<sup>mt</sup> & behaviour, & /  
disadvantage, if it is he & his Collegues em-  
ployed in / service o / Committee sh<sup>d</sup>

to liberty to trade &c . . .

Let me know how Melvil behaves w respect  
to dispatching / Store Ships, & / Care he takes  
abt buildg / ffort at Trinamaboa as such  
advices may be o advantage to y . . .  
J R.

Capt Gilbert 14 Nov<sup>r</sup> 52 Lond  
As promised I wrote y a long ltr 4<sup>th</sup>  
Inst. he had ltr from ~~Boston~~ B does  
since yr departure advsing y a Brig my  
Partner Mr Boteler both ths wd sail f C Coast  
laden w Rum in all yers, so I hope  
they'll be able to dispatch y directly &c J R

To Messrs Roberts Hubbards & Boteler

L: 16<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1752.

Sh go to Bristol in 9 days & don't doubt but  
as / assiste I sh h fm / Merchants o E City  
& Interest I can make in Lond: but to put a  
stop to any fur tradg in y efforts. take notice  
to represent any Grievces yr meet for you  
Competitory or make it a part o yr do by  
itself. Melvil wrote to / Committee y we wd  
not lay our Accts before him, wch was /  
Reason why he'd pay us no more than  
£1,000. Pray send me yr Attested Certificate  
& / Accts were laid before him, yr know best  
what they were, & advise Parly o his  
Pceedgs. . . . I endeavour to make people  
believe we spent / last Shleg upon / fforts &  
settlemt. on a yr are sensible how  
disadvantageous it hab b'n to yr m<sup>l</sup> W<sup>l</sup> H.

launcing [sic] out o' / Advantagous Bargains  
 he has made & / gr Trade Card on was  
 thrown out to me by one o' Committee  
 when I complained o' Officers in / Ports  
 beg allow'd to trade, t' I had / least  
 Occas<sup>n</sup> to talk o' any one, f' t' Mr Hubbards  
 card on a gr Trade than all those  
 officers, notw<sup>g</sup> / gr advantages I talk'd  
 o'. I answered t' was impossible, they  
 reply'd, all t' they ~~had~~ say, they  
 had the Inform<sup>n</sup> from a Person Mr  
 Hubbards assur'd he did carry on more  
 trade than / Officers o' yr Castle - be  
 cautious o' wt' ye say as people look w<sup>th</sup>  
 envious Eyes upon us conjectur<sup>g</sup> we sh<sup>d</sup>  
 make a Considerable figure in / trade to /  
 Gold Coast. . . . . J R

To Mrs Dacres L: 17<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 52.

... this to advise, I've bin inform'd y  
 are shut out o' Act o' Parliam<sup>t</sup> & no  
 Provis<sup>n</sup> made f' paym<sup>t</sup> o' yr Money due to  
 y' from yr late Africa Co, f' want'd not  
 making proper Applic<sup>n</sup>, I've talk'd  
 thereon to certain pple & represent'd, how  
 hard yr Case is, & d<sup>o</sup> o' yr old Cos  
 Servants to be excluded &c. T' y' knew not  
 what Forms were necessary, but that as  
 / Books in wh' yr Accts were, were Card  
 home by Messrs Chalmer & Craick were  
 Suff<sup>t</sup> Vouchers t' / Summ<sup>n</sup> y' claim specif'd  
 specif'd was due to y' & y<sup>r</sup> y' as was  
 natural, xpected yr Old Ma<sup>r</sup> to whom  
 y' sith<sup>r</sup> forbore receiv<sup>g</sup> yr Salary or  
 lent em / Money, yr Claim was f', w<sup>d</sup>  
 h' taken care to h' laid in yr Claim  
 w<sup>th</sup> the own, & h' secur'd f'. Y' likewise

lose what y advanced in / time o Stockwell &  
Husbands wh I think, hard upon y, shall  
endeavour to serve y therein, it beg / Opinion  
o serv, y & o's who h bn Excluded, upon a  
proper Applicon, may get Redress, & as  
I've got / Vouchers f. S. B & th. Claim I am  
gettg a Set o Books Completed, therefore to  
make applicon f / Sum Voted, them to be  
enlarged to the full due, therefore if y  
think proper to send me a Power o Attorney  
I will do w'ithg in my Power to serve y.  
I h recommended ya to / Gents o / Committee  
that I am acc'd w, & sh continue to pro-  
mote ya Interest w them as much as possible  
as I sincerely wish y well & sh be glad  
to hear fm y by any Oppy . . . . .  
J R.

Mrs Wm Wansley, London, 23<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1752

..... Am obliged to y f ya kind hint  
relatg to / french fleet supposed to be sailed  
f Annamaboa, tis not alarming at all to myself  
nor any Gent who was on / Coast whilst I  
resided thre of when / last Squadron o t  
Man lay in / road o Annamaboa & hd at  
polick g. Subtle g. men on Shore tamperg  
w / natives as france cd produce & as  
well supported f / purpose when Commodore  
Buckle myself & o's met / Majority o /  
powerful Fantoms to demand / reason  
o thre encourag / french & disaffecn to our  
Country they returned f answer before /  
face o people who were in / french interest,  
& they wd never be friends to / English  
whilst Mr Melvil was Governour o Cape Coast  
Castle, & they did not like him, & he was  
ungenerous & stingy, havg treated them

[not?]

ill & narrow sent them a Dashce & Doz upon  
 a grand Affairs of french attemptg to  
 settle this hd endeavoured to retrieve the  
 good will of them by three Gallons o  
 trade liquor amg so numerous a body  
 o men, wh they hd returned, I ask  
 under these these premises what we cd  
 expect fm this single Circumstce I always  
 unprejudiced, that / french hd & wd  
 acquire footg Sufficient to disturb our  
 Trade & augmen<sup>t</sup> their own. As to / seem<sup>n</sup>  
 o y<sup>r</sup>s. As to / rem<sup>n</sup> o y<sup>r</sup>s relatg to / Slaves  
 to Mr Beekford & my endeavours to revise  
 / old System o a joint Stock, perhaps y<sup>r</sup>  
 advice may h bn premature. To / first  
 part I h. certainly a right to Contract w  
 whom I judge its my Interest, & sh ex-  
 plain / latter part when I h / pleasure o  
 kissg y<sup>r</sup> hands at Bristol, It does not  
 appear fm / Supply o Goods I h sent to my  
 partners upon / Coast t I ever learn to /  
 Side & Accuse me o, no Sir, I am having  
 all Affairs appear in the true Colours, wh  
 cannot be properly displayed but by an  
 applic<sup>n</sup> to Parliam<sup>t</sup> wh I hope y<sup>r</sup> &  
 private adventurers to Africa will f y<sup>r</sup>  
 own Sakes join in, in order to overturn  
 / Joint Stock at present upon / Coast to /  
 detrim<sup>t</sup> o my persons tradg either in a  
 private Capacity wh present time will not  
 permit me to elucidate ... believe me - &c -  
 John Roberts

London 23<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1752.

Messrs Roberts, Hubbards & Boteler

Dear Gent<sup>l</sup>m

... This by a Man of War from Plymouth, Surmiz'd or Conjectur'd to be / Assistance, to inform you to w<sup>ch</sup> advice to this is a French Squadron Sailed from Brest for Annamaboa, on my Intelligence to / Admiralty / Ships by w<sup>ch</sup> you'll receive this is dispatched to reinforce / St Albans & two Sloops sent out a few days past. If / French are gone I don't doubt the carrying the point. If they do, it will not, in my opinion hurt our Affairs as I am in no doubt but you'll advantage Turkey, / French will give more for Slaves than / English, tho' I wd<sup>l</sup> ye do all ye can to hinder the Settling, & write me fully an Acct o' / Same. If they prevail, get what ye can by them o' w<sup>ch</sup>, as in all o' Cases, I do not doubt ye maldg / g<sup>o</sup>st advantage. . . .

J R.

L: 30 Nov<sup>r</sup> 52  
To Messrs Roberts, Hubbards & Boteler

... This is an Affid<sup>v</sup> come to / Admiralty made by a Commander late from Brest & 2 Ships of Line & 2 frigates were fittg out for / Coast o' Africa, w<sup>ch</sup> is ye Occas<sup>n</sup> / Assistance is fitted out to reinforce ours. Shd they meet its apprehended there may be some broken Bones as / French will certainly be Orders not to be brow beat ag<sup>n</sup>, & / Fantoms will be / pleasure o' see<sup>g</sup> a sea fight. What<sup>r</sup> occurs pray advise me o', & part<sup>l</sup> / part<sup>l</sup> melisil takes.

His Majesty arrived from his German dominions abt 14 nights ago, / town begins to fill & / Parliamt meets / 11th day o Janry. I am preparg my memorial<sup>s</sup> to lay before them, & / Dixwells p<sup>r</sup>ntours is abstractg by a Oliver [clever] hand & / press to be delivered to / members o both Houses, as people will take up a thg o t sort when at Break fast (20<sup>th</sup> times) t would not look upon a manuscript & / expence will not be gr. . . .  
 Jo<sup>n</sup> Roberts

The Committee of / Co o Merchants Tradg to Africa.

Gentlemen

Jan<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1753.

I did myself / honour to write Ye from Cape Coast Castle on / 29<sup>th</sup> July 1751, advisg / Inconveniences Messrs William Hubbards, Thomas Boteler (late Chief Agents to / Royal African Co<sup>y</sup> o England) & myself laboured under w regard to / Smallness o / Sum m<sup>r</sup> Melvil tho<sup>t</sup> proper to pay on Acct o our Advancements for / Supplies & Defence o / British Settlements upon / Gold Coast & a<sup>t</sup> Whydah

I beg leave to add t our Hardships were still gr<sup>er</sup> by Mr Melvil payg us in merchandize at 20 p. Ct. above / Cur<sup>t</sup> price upon / Coast at t juncture, & more than we had actually advanced & issued Goods o like Species at 6 / sd Co<sup>s</sup> lease.

Soon after my arrival in England, I took / liberty to wait on 42 Gentle men & informed Ye th<sup>r</sup> was a Balance due to my self & Colleagues between 1<sup>st</sup> August 1750 when / Supplies sent out under my

Direct<sup>n</sup> by ~~me~~ Henry Dasselles Esq<sup>r</sup> were entirely expended, & / time o Mrs Melvils Arrival.

Conformable to yr Advice at t<sup>e</sup> time, I h<sup>ve</sup> since compiled fm / Original Vouchers in my possession, Two Sets o Books, / Same beg<sup>n</sup> balanced, I take / liberty to wait w<sup>t</sup> yr permission to lay them before yr / yr Approbation.

The first o these Sets contains / Accts o / Cash five Months o / Year provided f<sup>r</sup> by / Grant issued to Mr Dasselles, durg wh<sup>ch</sup> time Messrs Husbands Boteler & Self were in Advance £5439-16-10, 9<sup>th</sup> part o / X<sup>ty</sup> Charge over & above / Sum granted f<sup>r</sup> / Year 1750, was occasioned by a Dispute w<sup>th</sup> / Dutch & Natives o / Ahanta Kingdom, f<sup>r</sup> / preservation o / Dacca Fortress & o<sup>r</sup> British Possessions & Property, & / part<sup>r</sup> Acct o / proceedings I h<sup>ve</sup> ready f<sup>r</sup> yr perusal, where<sup>n</sup> ye sh<sup>ll</sup> judge proper to receive / Same.

The Second Set take place on / 15<sup>th</sup> February followg & continue to 20<sup>th</sup> June 1751, when I delivered up Charge o / Forts to Mrs Melvil in Obedience to / Commands o my Constituents, durg this Period / whole expence o / Settlements on / Gold Coast & at Whydahs beg<sup>n</sup> defrayed by myself & Partners increased our Demand to £3602-15-3 over & above our former Balce, & / £1000 received fm Mrs Melvil, I also beg<sup>n</sup> permission to lay before ye an Acct Current<sup>t</sup> to each Set o Books, wherein / part<sup>r</sup> heads o our Demands are specified, as I presume ye h<sup>ve</sup> thro<sup>t</sup> o speedy Application to Parliam<sup>t</sup> f<sup>r</sup> / Annual Supply I h<sup>ve</sup> endeavoured w<sup>th</sup> utmost Expedi<sup>n</sup> to perfect my Affairs f<sup>r</sup> yr Inspect<sup>n</sup>, not doubtg but / Reasonableness & Justice o our Demand w<sup>th</sup> / indispensable necessity we were under o supporting / Forts fm time to time will be deemed worthy yr

Attem<sup>n</sup> therefore flatter myself ye'll  
 please to signifye to me yr Resolutions  
 respectg / Same, f my future Gov or  
 favour me w yr Advice, if any fut<sup>r</sup>  
 Measures are necessary to be taken, wh  
 will be attended to w / gr<sup>t</sup> deference  
 & Respect by  
 J R.

To Mr Hardman Esq<sup>r</sup> [n.d.]  
 Sir I Beg leave to Returne of my sincere  
 thanks f yr Politeness Dur<sup>g</sup> my Stay  
 at diserspool & hope I sh soon h / pleasure  
 to Retaliat / Same in this Metropolis,  
 as I suppose y Design Comg hither. The  
 4th March be<sup>g</sup> / last Day o Recov<sup>g</sup>  
 peti<sup>n</sup>s in parliam<sup>t</sup> after wh it is appre-  
 hended I will not be long a long time  
 before both houses break up.  
 I sh be Glad to hear what / Gent<sup>l</sup>  
 o yr place Intend to do w<sup>re</sup> regard  
 Respect to / Committee's Officers Trad<sup>g</sup>,  
 In my Opinion no time or to be lost to  
 put a stop to y<sup>t</sup> growing Evil, whene  
 they are Resolved to do it I'll engage  
 to give of an effectual plan to prevent  
 the making an y<sup>e</sup> use o ye Gov's goods  
 f thei own Emolum<sup>t</sup>, to ye Gen<sup>l</sup> Dis-  
 advantage o free Traders & / poor  
 Inferi<sup>r</sup> Servants under the Command  
 Annexed I take y<sup>e</sup> liberty to transmit  
 Abstracts o pres Recd<sup>t</sup> fm ye Coast this  
 day, by wh you'll perceive / Methods  
 pursued by Mr Melvil & ye people in  
 leagues w him to assist British Traders  
 w<sup>th</sup> partiality  
 I am of Opinion such proceed<sup>g</sup>s are

Unpardonable. I cannot enlarge further but I  
wrote to any person at yr place but yrself as I  
doubt not but yrself will communicate my advices to  
yr Gen<sup>l</sup> Concerned to [sic] Trade to yr Gold Coast,  
to whom & to yrself principally I sh<sup>d</sup> continue  
to forward fm time to time yr best advices I  
Receive of yr Same may prove or be that yr  
dear Advantageous to yr publick Good It will  
give Inexpressible Satisfaction to  
J Roberts

To James Laroch Esq<sup>r</sup> Lond. 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. 53

I hope this will find y<sup>e</sup> well at Bristol  
It concerned me after I arrived fm Liverpool yr  
stay was so short in this Metrop<sup>l</sup> as I sh<sup>d</sup>  
be glad y<sup>e</sup> wd be ~~in~~ hand me w<sup>th</sup> yr Co...

Annexed I take liberty to transmit  
Abstracts o<sup>f</sup> dres need fm / Coast by w<sup>ch</sup> yr will  
perceive / Methods pursued by Mr Melvil  
& people in league w<sup>th</sup> him to assist British  
Traders w<sup>th</sup> partiality. I am o<sup>f</sup> Opinion such  
proceedgs are unpardonable.

I sh<sup>d</sup> be glad to hear what / Gents o<sup>f</sup>  
yr City intend w<sup>ch</sup> regard to / Committees  
Officers tradg. in my Opinion no time sh<sup>d</sup>  
to be lost to put a stop to / grow<sup>g</sup> Evil, when<sup>r</sup>  
they are resolved to do it, I will engage to  
give y<sup>e</sup> an effectual Plan, to prevent the  
making an ill use o<sup>f</sup> Gov<sup>ts</sup> Goods, f<sup>r</sup> the  
own Emolument to / gen disadvantage o<sup>f</sup> free  
traders & / poor inferior Servants under the  
Command. . . . . TC.

To / Committee 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: 1753

I did myself / hon<sup>r</sup> to write to yr 14<sup>th</sup> Inst [sic] & agreeable to yr Commands delivered to yr Secretary / Orig<sup>e</sup> day Books & pay Bills kept at C. C. C. & / sent out Forts on / Gold Coast & Whydah in Africa fm 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 50 to 20<sup>th</sup> June followg - Vouchers & 15 / Set o Books I had / favour to lay before yr f<sup>r</sup> E part o / time Messrs Boteler / Husbands & Self. Supported / Forts & Settlements fm / expiran o / Year / Supplies sent out under direc<sup>n</sup> o yr Lascelles were granted, fwrh yr Yents at yr last meetg were pleased Verbally to signifye came properly under yr Inspe<sup>m</sup>, but t what we advanced fm Sept<sup>r</sup> 1750 to Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1751 did not, under wh Circumst<sup>s</sup> I am obliged Ye'll favour me w a Copy o / minute o yr determin<sup>a</sup> regardg / Same as it may be o Service to me in my future applic<sup>n</sup>.

I likewise del<sup>d</sup> to yr Secretary a Journal o / War & proceedgs wh / Dutch & Aghanta Natives levied ag<sup>t</sup> / English at Discove<sup>r</sup> & togr w Cor-respondence o / Dutch Officers, Depositions o / Evidences exam<sup>d</sup> bet both Parties thereupon, by wh I flatter myself on examining / Same Ye'll find / Expences attendg t dispute were necessary & not imprudently laid out.

I fur beg... [interlinean in R<sup>s</sup> writg o 4 words, illegible] to inform Ye I brok fm / Coast at Request o thr Fathers two Negro Boys, one Son o A Champe King o G<sup>t</sup> ~~Boys~~ & Little ✓

Po Po who is very desirous / English sh<sup>d</sup>  
build a Fort & Settlement in his Country where  
a most advantageous Trade may be carry'd  
on of Slaves Gold & Teeth. The Jr is Son  
to Acca Catocheer & Linguist at the  
Discove, a man of experienced probity &  
fidelity to / English, & of his X<sup>ty</sup> Services  
in defence of Discove, g<sup>ly</sup> deserving yr  
Countenance. / Good of this man in Gen was  
/ Motive I obliged the Petitioners in the  
Request, & doubt not but yr will think  
some Care & notice be taken of them during  
the Stay in England necessary to  
promote such good End, & if so, blatter  
myself yr will judge it not unreasonable  
in me to expect a reimbursement of / Charge  
I've bin at in the maintenance hitherto, wh<sup>ch</sup>  
I hope will be taken Care of by yr  
Orders & / future re. J.R.

Bristol, Wm Wansley, Feby 3<sup>d</sup> 1752 [3]

I was favoured w<sup>th</sup> yr 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> post  
wherein yr are pleased to signify / last  
Resolution of yr Committee on / African  
Business. (Viz)

To put a stop to / Forts tradg, so far  
as at least to prevent the sendg off Slaves  
or receiving any Goods, more than the  
Salaries, into / Forts, &c. The latter part  
I think a good resolve & in its effects will  
be productive of very special Benefits and /  
Gainers (i.e.) so far as at least to prevent the  
sendg off Slaves, in my Opinion (w<sup>ch</sup> g<sup>t</sup>

Differer [Differer] to yr Self & Worthy Committee  
 by far too feeble a Restriction & can answer  
 little or no Purpose. The Disorder Com-  
 plained of is powerfull & Contagious &  
 may baffle / most powerfull Alterations,  
 fm / best Judgment & most impartial  
 Opinion on / Affair, I am of awg / will  
 as Vigorously, & Effectual as possible, to  
 men o sordid Appetites, few Indulgies  
 or to be granted, especially when tis not  
 difficult to pervert in Africa / best laid  
 Scheme in England, by men studious  
 after private Advantage, who tho' re-  
 trained as much as in / power o Man  
 will find Occasns & wop Holes to creep  
 on, of Justice - suppose / Officers are  
 limited only fm sendg Slaves off /  
 Coast, / Merchant Traders may not at  
 all be benefited thry, nor / Officers pre-  
 vented fm such Practices, bec as / latter  
 are in Combunam, One will get discharged  
 / Service to settle as a free Factor, to  
 whom & in whose name will be sold  
 all / Slaves bot by / Confederates &  
 sent off / Coast & / Profits be divided  
 amng / Private Body, a total Suppressn  
 o / whole Slave Trade must be struggled  
 for, must be accomplished: I well know  
 tis quite sufficient to permit / Officers /  
 Article of Wood & necessaries f Shippg,  
 w / Trade f Gold - but on no acct, what  
 f Slaves. Debar / Servants o / Public /  
 last Advantage, / Man will soon feel /  
 Result, / Africans / Consequence, & / in-  
 ferior of British Servants bless yr f  
 / Restriction, f / seasons follows,

Ships will get quicker Dispatch, more,  
better & cheaper Slaves. The Co's negro  
Tradersmen &c will be employed on  
repairing / Structures (to / gr Satisfac<sup>on</sup>  
of Natives Subject thereto) / Officers  
have little ~~else to~~ Else, to study, and /  
latter be treated w more humanity & im-  
partiality in the Salaries & Illness, as /  
Surgeons & Warehouse Keepers will be  
more attentive to the Wants & Infirmities,  
than they ~~or~~ wise are, beg permitted an  
unlimited Trade wh ingrosses the whole  
Diligence.

I am glad to find y are drawing up  
y<sup>r</sup> Sentiments &c & wish I cd contribute  
any points new to complete / Same, but y  
are Master, a / Subject. I mean well & just-  
aim w Spirit at ~~promoting~~ / public Good,  
under wh predicaments 'tis hardly possible  
y shd ~~be~~ be o<sup>r</sup> than sensible of Calamity  
& a steady Opponent to private Jobby &  
Monopolizing Schemes. The Book promised  
shd be sent down soon as ~~soon~~ ~~sent~~ ~~down~~ &  
y<sup>r</sup> Kind hints a Secrecy be never Sacred to  
Report & / Public. The Plan, in gen, I  
describe, is good, but in / Secrecy ~~it~~  
become a private Joint Stock. As must / w<sup>o</sup>g<sup>o</sup>br.  
Model of an open Trade so long as / Officers  
are allowed to trade on any pretex whatsoever of  
Slaves. As to Affairs of Paths, / same are  
to be opened - & / Method how is plain,  
tho I fear not to, or by Mr M. it must be  
affected by a person of ~~the~~ Qualific<sup>ns</sup> (ie) one  
r has / National Good at heart I will be  
liberal (w<sup>o</sup> profum) of Public Supplies, ~~both~~  
both established a Character & Reputation among  
/ natives & acquired the Love

I rest assured of your strenuous En-  
deavours in / laudible Work under Consideration  
& sh<sup>d</sup> propose a plan of opening / Paths & future  
Gov<sup>t</sup> Affairs, provided there are hopes of totally  
secludg / present Monopolizers as above, or else  
we are strug<sup>g</sup> agst Wind & Tide, whilst  
Canker Worms prey upon our Vitals, Opening  
/ Paths & promotg<sup>g</sup> excellent Schemes will  
be of little Avail / Officers will glutton upon  
/ Produce & reap / Harvest of our Toil, & my  
own part I am determined (if / Sent<sup>n</sup> of  
/ Committees of Bristol & Liverpool don't  
Judge proper to put a Total Stop to /  
Officers in / Forts tradg<sup>g</sup> of Slaves) to pay a  
Memorial before / Board of Trade, & if it does  
not succeed, believe I may venture to say I  
h<sup>d</sup> friends who will interest themselves so far  
as to expose t<sup>e</sup> Part in / House of Commons,  
wh<sup>ch</sup> my Journey to / City & Town afores<sup>d</sup> was  
calculated to prevent.

... at present my Atten<sup>n</sup> is wholly  
taken up betw<sup>n</sup> / Committee who are ex-  
aming my Acct<sup>s</sup> & takg<sup>g</sup> proper Methods to  
apply to Parliam<sup>t</sup> to be reimbursed my  
own & Partners' Advancements &c. J.R.

Cape Coast, Messrs Husbands & Boteler  
Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1753.

I recd / Letters from Mr W<sup>th</sup>. bearing Date  
2<sup>o</sup> of July, 3<sup>d</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>. Observe my  
Melville & Brew's proceedings, & h<sup>d</sup> taken part  
care to represent / Same properly, wh<sup>ch</sup> if may be  
assured will be taken. Notice of, & guarded  
agst, as I h<sup>d</sup> bin at Bristol & Liverpool for t<sup>e</sup>  
purpose & believe they will join me t<sup>e</sup> are  
concerned in / Trade to / Gold Coast to put  
a Stop to / Same, & are much afraid / Affairs

will come before Parli<sup>ment</sup> I write to both places  
to / principal people there to inform them if they  
do not come to a resolu<sup>tion</sup> to write to / Com-  
mittee to restrain the Officers from purchasing  
Slaves either directly or indirectly or to  
sh<sup>ould</sup> pay / off Convincency & Hardship / free  
Traders Labour under before / Board o  
Trade who are prepared to receive / same & if  
I don't meet redress there before / House o  
Commons, where I do not want Friends,  
point / Advantage to / Committee's Officers,  
& Disadvantage to private Traders in a true  
& clear light &c.

I have laid my Accts before / Committee  
from / 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1751 to 20<sup>th</sup> June, & they  
are under the Examina<sup>tion</sup>, & they say if Answered  
when they have examined them they will send  
out Goods to pay upon / Coast, what they sh<sup>ould</sup>  
Judge is really over Due.

In respect to our Advances<sup>ment</sup> from 30<sup>th</sup>  
Aug<sup>ust</sup> to 31 Jan<sup>uary</sup> / Committee will take no  
Cognizance as it was before the time, therefore on  
Wednesday next I lay a Memorial before /  
lords o / Treasury to desire to be paid what  
We have advanced, in hopes it will be referred  
to / Board o Trade to enquire into / absolute  
Necessity o such Advances<sup>ments</sup> & hope to have  
a favourable report from thence to / House o  
Commons depend I sh<sup>ould</sup> do every thing to  
be done, & wh<sup>ere</sup> I sh<sup>ould</sup> advise I fully by. with  
Obedy. I g<sup>reatly</sup> wish to hear from / you  
Answers to my letters by / Committee's Ships, &  
mind never to omit advising me what Ships  
they are at Annamab<sup>erg</sup> & o<sup>ther</sup> parts o / Coast &  
Number o Slaves they want. be as partic<sup>ular</sup>  
as possible as it obliges people here, like-  
wise let me know / price o Slaves & if  
I may venture to contract for 200 grown  
Slaves at 50 much p. head & in what time

you'd engage to deliver them as I have many  
 people applying to me to contract w<sup>th</sup> for  
 so much p. head St<sup>g</sup> & I to buy / I would  
 of ready money, & then Vessel to carry on<sup>ly</sup> /  
 Goods. . . . J R.

Bristol. Sam Sedgley.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 3 1759.

I have been in daily expectation to hear  
 from you or Mr Cheston w<sup>th</sup> regard to / Steps  
 taken by y<sup>r</sup> Committee respect<sup>g</sup> African  
 matters, but being disappointed leads me to  
 suggest if you are not yet come to any Determina<sup>n</sup>.  
 I rest assured of you & Mr Cheston's  
 strenuous Endeavours in / laudable Work  
 under Considera<sup>n</sup>. & if I had of people  
 sincere therein, I sh<sup>d</sup> propose a Plan for  
 opening / Paths & future Gov<sup>o</sup> Affairs  
 provided there are hopes of totally seclud<sup>g</sup>  
 / present Monopolizers, ~~since~~ we  
 are striu<sup>g</sup> ag<sup>t</sup> Wind & Tide whilst  
 Canker Worms prey upon our Vitals.  
 Open / Paths & promot<sup>g</sup> Schemes will be  
 a little Retail, / Officers will glutton upon  
 / Produce & reap / Harvest of my Toil for such  
 good purpose.

For my own part I am determin'd  
 (if / Gentlemen of / Committees of Bristol  
 & Liverpool do not judge proper to put  
 a total Stop to / Officers in / Forts  
 trad<sup>g</sup> of Slaves) to lay a Memorial  
 before / Board of Trade, & if it does  
 not succeed believe I may venture to  
 say I have friends who will interest  
 themselves so far as to expose t<sup>he</sup> Part

in / House o Commons, wh my Journey  
to / City & Town aforesd was calculated  
to present. As my Friend you always  
find me am w Spirit to promote / public  
Good & a steady Opponent to private Jobs  
& Monopolizing Schemes. At present a private  
Joint Stock upon / Coast, as must, / wisest  
Model of an open Trade so long as / Committees  
Officers are allowed to trade on any part  
whatso<sup>r</sup> of Slaves. I am extremely hurried  
preparing Matters to lay before / Lords o  
Treasury & Trade / next week, in regard  
to my Advancements & flatter myself sh  
succeed in my Application, as I expect fm /  
Equity & Justice o my Claim a favourable  
Report fm / latter Board to / House o Commons,  
wh presents me on larg<sup>r</sup> &c J. R.

Barbadoes Mr George Thomas  
London 28 Feb<sup>r</sup> 1753

... have bn extremely busy getting my Affairs  
in proper order to lay before Parliam<sup>t</sup> &c  
& soliciting Friends, besides I made a Tour to  
Bristol & Liverpool to make / African  
Traders the some proposals, in order to  
regulate / Trade upon / Coast & present  
/ Committee's Officers fm Trade, wh I hope  
to accomplish as it comes under /  
Consideration o / House o Commons on  
Friday next, where I & sev<sup>r</sup> O<sup>r</sup>s are to  
be examined. & I sh<sup>d</sup> ...

I am at present extremely hurried, be<sup>g</sup> just  
in / Crisis o my Application to Parliam<sup>t</sup>, my  
Petition will be presented to / House o Commons  
on Tuesday, & I am this moment go<sup>g</sup> to

write a letter to Mr Pelham abt my Affairs,  
 & am depended upon to give an Act o/  
 African Trade abt Bar o/ House & to  
 furnish Plans & Matter f a New Regula<sup>n</sup>  
 fm all Parties, so I must think I am  
 fully employed, & therefore I h not time  
 to write f as fully as I wd wish. ....  
 Yours

Bristol. Wm Wansley. London March 9<sup>th</sup> 1753

I h fr obligg favour o/ 5<sup>th</sup> Cur<sup>t</sup> &  
 duly observe / seal Remarks & Kind Advice  
 noticed therein, & upon / whole can only say,  
 when I wrote my last, some Occup<sup>ies</sup> in Matters  
 o Business took off much o t Atten<sup>n</sup> wh a  
 little more Leisure wd obliged me to dedi-  
 cate to yrself, yet notw<sup>g</sup> I believe a few  
 hints cd be truly gathered fm / Matter o  
 it portending my Sense o yr tellg Mr Bon-  
 ville a Letter was received concerning /  
 Affairs o Capt<sup>n</sup> Rolfe, or o my Inclina<sup>n</sup>  
 to be revivg / old Bone o Contem<sup>n</sup> (a Joint  
 Stock Co) - tis most certain I wd / African  
 Affairs wd come on before / House o  
 Parliamt & t ths mt be Debated ston - &  
 Warm ones - but 't was far fm my  
 Meang to suggest / Matter o a Joint Stock  
 Co wd be on / least / Subject or Reason o  
 such Debates, & I am so far fm taking up  
 / Coals ths upon, t how<sup>er</sup> / Party f such  
 Scheme may be dwindled, I wd wish w  
 seal v<sup>y</sup> zealous f such an establish<sup>mt</sup>  
 w whom I h spared no endeavors, accordg  
 to / best o my Capacity & Knowledge to  
 reverse ths Judge mts & let thgs go on  
 / accordg to / Tenor o / Statute but not accordg

to / present Exec<sup>m</sup> wh<sup>y</sup> are sensible I can't  
help struggl<sup>g</sup> to alter, well know<sup>g</sup> how  
destructive it is to / gen Good . . . . .  
I will observe, y<sup>e</sup> kind Recommen<sup>d</sup> o<sup>n</sup> Patie  
& sh<sup>d</sup> not be in / least heat, let Matters take  
what turn soev<sup>r</sup>. I know an Alteram<sup>t</sup> is  
want<sup>g</sup> & a Speedy one. I know / Intern<sup>n</sup> o<sup>n</sup> /  
legis<sup>r</sup> Nature is not answer'd & t<sup>e</sup> / good  
Merchants are duped w<sup>th</sup> bare Name o<sup>n</sup> an open  
Trade instead o<sup>n</sup> / Reality.

The Committee of y<sup>e</sup> observe may redress  
these Complaints, & / Board o<sup>n</sup> Trade, may on  
non relief, take / Premises into Consideration,  
therefore it needs no fur<sup>r</sup> wait<sup>g</sup> on t<sup>e</sup> head  
especially as I intend beg<sup>g</sup> so soon in Town . . . . .

Bristol, W<sup>m</sup> Wansley, London March 14<sup>th</sup> 1753

Have bin on<sup>l</sup> a Town since Saturday was  
not favour'd w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> o<sup>n</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Inst till this  
day, you'l perceive by my last I h<sup>e</sup> done  
all in my power to establish / proper  
Method of carry<sup>g</sup> on / Trade to / Gold Coast  
o<sup>n</sup> Africa by detect<sup>g</sup> / private Jobs &  
monopoliz<sup>g</sup> Schemes o<sup>n</sup> / present Servants o<sup>n</sup>  
/ Committee & th<sup>e</sup> Associates, y<sup>e</sup> may rest  
assured all I am at is to be upon a  
level or equitable Foot<sup>g</sup> w<sup>th</sup> any o<sup>n</sup> persons who  
adventures himself & Property upon / Coast, &  
only desire t<sup>e</sup> / Officers o<sup>n</sup> / Public may be  
restrained fm<sup>m</sup> trad<sup>g</sup> in Slaves, t<sup>e</sup> / Forts &  
Settlements, be laid open f<sup>r</sup> search any British  
Subjects' Goods, Slaves & Effects, & to trade  
therein withall. This I think was / Intern<sup>n</sup> o<sup>n</sup> /  
legislature, & certainly / Promoters o<sup>n</sup> / Bill

meant so. & to render / Forts free & open,  
 wh I am o Opinion cannot now be effected  
 but by Applicam to Parliam<sup>t</sup> where / thg  
 will be done, & so far from prejudicing /  
 present System t it will be do<sup>g</sup> it /  
 g<sup>o</sup>vt Service, how<sup>r</sup> more on t head  
 when I see y . . .

Liverpool. Mrs Thomas Knight<sup>th</sup>  
 March 15<sup>th</sup> 1753.

Yr esteemed favour o / 18<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>  
 came duly to hand, wh I sh<sup>d</sup> h<sup>e</sup> answered  
 before this had not / extreme hurry o my  
 Affairs respectg / money I advanced f  
 / Support<sup>t</sup> o / Forts & Settlements in Africa  
 prevented. I find it an uphill piece o  
 Works to get my own & friends' ~~own~~  
 money, therefore my whole time is em-  
 ployed in my Applicam to / Great. I ~~do~~  
 fear I sh<sup>d</sup> be obliged to trouble yr self  
 & / Merchants o Yr place to certify (if  
 they'd do me / favour) t / expen<sup>e</sup> was  
 necessary, o wh you'l be informed by yr  
 Captains who were upon / Spot at t time.

I observe what y say w respect to yr  
 Merchants' Opinion o / Officers o / Committee  
 tradg f Slaves, be assured while they are  
 allowed to do it they will always keep up  
 / price o Slaves upon / Coast f many  
 reasons, time will not permit me at  
 present to elucidate.

Tuesday 7 night is appointed to  
 examine into t Matter before Parliam<sup>t</sup>.  
 I sh<sup>d</sup> make all / Interest, & give all /

Informa<sup>n</sup> I can't present Jobs & Mono-  
polizing Schemes. I h<sup>ad</sup> not had any talk w<sup>th</sup> Mrs  
Hardman yet on / Subject, but expect to h<sup>ave</sup> in  
a day or two.

If I receive fresh Advices fm / Coarb, be  
assured I sh<sup>all</sup> communicate / material part to y<sup>e</sup>.

Liverpool, Thomas Chalmer Esq<sup>r</sup> March 15<sup>th</sup> 1753

- Thanks of hospitality at Liverpool

- to / same effect as to Thos Knight supra

Liverpool, Cap<sup>m</sup> Darbys here March 15<sup>th</sup> 1753.

I expected to h<sup>ave</sup> seen y<sup>e</sup> in London  
before this, I am h<sup>ow</sup>ever extremely hurried since  
my Return hither in my Application for / Money  
y<sup>e</sup> know We advanced for / Support of Forts  
& Settlements, wh<sup>ere</sup> I find I am likely to  
meet w<sup>th</sup> Difficulties & Embarrassments before I  
can get it, & it is hinted to me t<sup>hat</sup> I must  
get Certificates fm / Merchants of Bristol &  
Liverpool to Trade to Africa, wh<sup>ere</sup> / Expence  
We were at in defend<sup>ing</sup> Dixcove Fort<sup>er</sup> was  
necessary, or if t<sup>he</sup> Fort was worth contend<sup>ing</sup>  
for, Your / best Judge of / absolute  
necessity We were at to advance, therefore  
sh<sup>ould</sup> be obliged to y<sup>e</sup> to speak to some of  
y<sup>e</sup> principal Traders to know if they  
will sign a Certificate drawn up to /  
following purpose viz: -

" We h<sup>e</sup> perused / above Memorial  
 " o<sup>r</sup> Governour John Roberts, & by /  
 " Accts we h<sup>e</sup> received fm / Coast o<sup>f</sup>  
 " Africa his Conduct w<sup>h</sup> regard to  
 " / Dispute w<sup>h</sup> Dutch was proper  
 " + f<sup>r</sup> / Honour o<sup>f</sup> British Tra<sup>n</sup> &  
 " Preserva<sup>n</sup> o<sup>f</sup> valuable Settlements  
 " Discover<sup>d</sup> + / British Subjects  
 " belongg<sup>g</sup> thro<sup>u</sup>, & t<sup>o</sup> durg his  
 " Command thro<sup>u</sup> We believe he  
 " did ev<sup>er</sup>thg in his power to  
 " promote / British Trade,  
 " as to / Am<sup>t</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Expence  
 " We cannot take upon us to  
 " Judge, but humbly offer<sup>d</sup>  
 " as o<sup>ur</sup> Opinion t<sup>o</sup> Memorialis<sup>t</sup>  
 " & his Colleagues are entitl<sup>d</sup>  
 " to some Relief & his  
 " Majesty's Permission to lay /  
 " State o<sup>f</sup> thro<sup>u</sup> Case before /  
 " Parliam<sup>t</sup>

I sh<sup>d</sup> be glad to h<sup>e</sup> yr Opinion wh<sup>o</sup>  
 & think / Gentlemen o<sup>f</sup> Liverpool  
 will sign such Certificate as soon as  
 possible " " "

Committee o<sup>f</sup> Merchants Trade to Africa

March 21<sup><sup>9</sup></sup>. 1753.

On / 24<sup><sup>th</sup></sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> last I did myself /  
 Honour to lay before Ye a Set o<sup>f</sup> Books,  
 + / Vouchers respectg<sup>g</sup> my own + Colleagues

A discharge m<sup>ts</sup> of / Support & Maintenance of /  
Forts & Settlements in / Gold Coast & Whydah  
from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1750/51, to 20<sup>th</sup> June follow<sup>g</sup>.  
/ time of Mr Melville's arrival. By / Books  
& Vouchers of exp<sup>ts</sup> there appears a Balance due  
to myself & Partners of £ 3563-5-3 St<sup>d</sup>  
therefore take / liberty to wait upon ye  
Gentlemen to desire ye'll be pleased to  
favour me w<sup>th</sup> yr<sup>e</sup> resolution in writ<sup>g</sup>  
respect of / paym<sup>ts</sup> thereof I am &c.

Cape Coast, Messrs / husbands & Boteler.

April 2<sup>d</sup> 1753.

The forego<sup>g</sup> is Copy of mine 3<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> to  
wh<sup>ch</sup> refer, as it is uncertain to what part of  
Coast this Vessel goes, / Owners tell me they  
do not know wh<sup>er</sup> she will go to / Gold  
Coast or not, I sh<sup>o</sup> only write ye a few lines  
to let ye know t<sup>h</sup> I am well & mak<sup>g</sup> ap-  
plic<sup>ns</sup> to / Ministers for / money due to us,  
but find gr<sup>o</sup> difficulties to encounter than  
I expected. beg<sup>d</sup> to send abt<sup>ly</sup> from / Treasury  
to / Board of Trade as not in the Province &  
from / Board of Trade to / Committee, from /  
Committee to them again, how<sup>ev</sup>er I hope to  
overcome all difficulties & to secure our money,  
but it will be some time first (ie) not  
till after / next Year's meet<sup>g</sup> of Parliam<sup>ts</sup>, as  
I am to get Certificates from / Old Co & /  
sev<sup>l</sup> Merchants of London, Bristol &  
Liverpool concerned in / African Trade, t<sup>h</sup>  
Dixons Fort & Territory belong<sup>g</sup> was o /

best consequence to / Traders to Africa, & t  
 they think / Expence o defendg / same also  
 absolutely necessary & wh I h drawn &  
 sent down to Bristol & Liverpool to be signed,  
 & / Directors o / old Co h promised to sign  
 One, then Mr Pelham says he will take  
 / Memorial I laid before / Treasury up &  
 refer it to / Board o Trade f they may  
 make the Report, wh I don't doubt will  
 be in our favour, if it is, Mr Pelham  
 has promised to ask / King's leave f  
 f us to petition Parliamt next Year, when  
 I am persuaded we sh get our money,  
 as most o / Members o / House o  
 Commons ont o / many I h talked w  
 think it reasonable we shd be paid

I applied to / Society f Propogatg  
 / Gospel to know if they wd pay f  
 thgs Ye desired me to send f Mr  
 Thompson, but they told me they wd not  
 pay any money wt I h a Bill fm  
 Mr Thompson, if they wd I h h  
 no Oppy to send them. Ye write f  
 Shoes, Wigs & Wearing Apparel & I  
 do not know what Size to send, wh  
 Mr Thompson is a gr or little Man,  
 but shd be enquired o / Society if  
 they woud be paid / money, I am &

To Mr G: Tho: London 5 May 53

Mr Wansley is here, deputed to represent / grievances o / Bristol Merchants occasion'd by / Officers tradg of Slaves on / Coast & to regulate / same. This comg up is in consequence o my Journey to Bristol. In o Opinion we shd settle M<sup>rs</sup> to our liking . . .  
J R.

don: 16 Oct 1753.

To Mr Gordon, Bristol

I shd forward it [a letter] by / Committee's Ship & will sail in a few days, wh will be rather a disadvantage to Capt Gally's Voyage as ye Officers o / Committee will h / Gov's Choice Supply to trade w, wh will make em powerful rivalls, as I'm informed ye Committee don't intend to prohibit the Officers tradg in Slaves, wh in my Opinion they ot to do, & am surpris'd y / principal African traders to / G. Coast, do not insist upon this dog it, & to send ye a Copy o / orders they send out & y may advise / Captains of yr Ships upon / Coast o it, as they will be Judges wh / officers upon / Coast adhere to the Instructions . . .  
J R.

To Messrs Husbands & Boteler [nd]

Dr Sirs

If ye send to Po Po, to Trade Mr Gordon will order a present for Ashampo, & pray lett him know his son is well, also t<sup>t</sup> Ash send him home by next Ship we send this, wh will be in 8 or 9 months. If Captm Gally goes thither lett him go as fm us as he may perhaps save something in Customs.

9 am - 10 -

J R.

To Messrs Husbands & Boteler  
London 19<sup>th</sup> Octr 1753

Dr Sirs Inclosed Copy of Agreement [no 2]

I was obliged to refer into w/ Co a Merchants trading to Africa, by wh ye'll perceive / manner / Comtee of Comp<sup>ts</sup> propose Mr Melvill or / Governor of Cape Coast Castle for time being to pay / Permaunders of our advancements, of wh purpose / Committee by this opp<sup>ty</sup> order Mr Melvill to inspect & examine / Accots & to pay ye / balace t may appear justly & fairly due conformable to / tenours of / afd Bond, & in order t / Accots may be adjusted & settled w less trouble & more expedim / Comtee has returned me / Journal & Ledger. I delivered them, compiled fm / Original Vouchers I brot home, Duplicates of same being in / Accomptants Office, will serve as such to / books wh will be delivered by Captm McDonough, / original Vouchers are lodged in / hands of /

Committee, lest they shd be called f  
The Gentlemen o/ Committee ordered  
the Secretary to read / Paragraph o the  
drc t regardd / Settling our Accts to me, wh as  
near as I can remember is as follows. T  
they send him / Bond & desire he wd  
Settle & Adjust / Accts conformable thro  
wt. loss o time & pay / ballce in a  
regular Assortment as soon as he conveni-  
ently can. I desired it m<sup>t</sup> be specified  
t he shd pay y onk o / Cargo sent in /  
Roberts, but / Comitee answered they cd  
not do t as they thot / Goods they sent  
onk by this oppy wd be wanted f / Use  
o / Forts, but t they shd in 6 weeks  
time send out ano<sup>r</sup> Ship onk o wh Cargo  
he shd b positive orders to pay y our  
ballce, & as most o / Chiefs o / Forts  
remain upon / Coast who know / Justice  
o our Claim & will no doubt be ready to  
attest / Validity o the respective Accts.  
Therefore I flatter myself y will meet w  
no gr difficulty or delay in Settling them, wh  
will hardly be done before / next Cargo  
arrives. I sh be glad to hear y h  
settled them & received / ballce as I am - n -  
J R.

... best way o employg our money when we get it wth  
984 sh struggle hard to do when / Parliament meets. I don't  
doubt a success tho I did not think for / Justice o our Claim t:  
shd h found / difficulties th met us w our likely to h to encounter  
Year Handbands.

London 20 Oct. 1753.

Inclosed I send y copy o /  
Memorial I delivered into / Board o Trade  
[more] & / same day delivered one much to /  
Same purpose to / Treasury Cash year  
My answer fm / Treasury Board was t as  
they hd no money appropriated for our payment  
they hd nothing to do w it a fm / Board o  
Trade t they cd not take Cognizance o it  
unless referred to them by / Treasury, in this  
Dilemma I was puzzled what to do next  
& consulted Lord Halifax & sevl o my Friends  
what I shd do. He & Mrs George Grenville  
one o / Lords o / Treasury went to Mr Pelham  
& explained / hardships we laboured  
under & how generously we hd advanced  
our Substance for / preservation o / Forts & Settlements  
&c. Mr Pelham told them t as I was  
employed by Mr Dabell's if I wd get a  
Letter fm him t I was / person he sent  
out & t after / Gov's Supplies were  
exhausted & t we hd advanced such  
a Sum wh was absolutely necessary for  
preservation o / British Forts & Settlements  
then he wd take notice o our Petition & refer it  
to / Board o Trade to examine wh yr sevl  
Observations contained therein were Facts, & if  
they were found so on his Report he wd  
ask his Majesty's permission for me to  
petition Parliamt for Relief, wth t if /  
House judged p.p. to grant it us, of his  
own part he shd not be agst it, wh was  
sayg a gr deal, t I must apply to / Com-  
mittee for our Advancements in the Time. I  
went immediately to Mrs Dabell & desired

such a bre. He told me to draw up one & carry it to  
Mr Sharpe to look over & to alter as he sh<sup>d</sup>  
Judge pp, wh I did & Mr Sharpe made many  
alterations in it to enforce / Affs in ver ffawors.  
But Oh! how g<sup>t</sup> was my surprize when I  
went to Mr Lascelles & he refused to sign it.  
I used all / Arguments I was Master o / Provincial  
on him to do it but to no purpose. He swore he  
wd give nothing under his Hand, but if Mr  
Pelham wd send any Body to him he wd tell  
them so as he did not know what handle  
m<sup>t</sup> be made o his signing anything before / Accts  
o / Surplus he sent out were audited. I got  
Mr Whitaker & seal to go & desire him to do  
it but to no purpose. Therefore I turned my  
thoughts on getting his Acct<sup>s</sup> passed, a state o wh  
/ Auditor had laid before / Treasury 4 months  
ago, but they are not passed, so as if Mr  
Lascelles to be his Quiet? wh I had endeavored  
to get by all possible means, as I am I am  
advised not to go on in my applic<sup>n</sup> till it  
is got. The Auditor when he delivered them to  
/ Treasury, certified at my request f they  
were as fair & exact Acct<sup>s</sup> as ever he saw from  
any pt o / Coast, & much more clear than wh  
he saw from Africa. I hope to h them passed  
in a week or a fortnights Time notwithstanding Mr  
Lascelles killed himself on / 6th o this instant  
in / following manner... [cutting his throat  
& arms & body w a razor in his house in  
Little Ormond St.]... Therefore I see it is not  
money I make people happy or else he had  
enough o t<sup>r</sup> if they say he died worth  
£300,000, wh well or ill got he knew best or  
at least is sensible o it by this if. after our  
departure from this World this is rewards o [or]  
Punishments, wh I am o opinion this is, as /  
just & unjust can never go / same way.

The cause o his committ<sup>d</sup> / Paricide is known to few. I was told by a friend o mine a yrs t he was called to an acct by my Lord Chancellor abt some Contracts he made durg / Wars w / Board o Ordnance . . . a suit in Chancery before my Lord Chancellor who ordered all / contracts m<sup>r</sup> Lascelles had entered made durg / Wars & . . . passed a Decree t Mrs Lascelles shd refund £14,000. When he was advised by Mrs North his Atty where he supped / the night before he killed himself he flew in a violent passion . . . . I am dog sure thg I can to gett his Accts passed, wh as soon as I succeed I sh gett my Memorial drawn up & signed by / Merch<sup>ts</sup> o London & then carry it down to Bristol to get it signed thro by as many as I can, so t I hope to get it before / House o Commons early in / Session & to make many to do friends thro but there is no attemptg anythg until Lascelles Accts are passed, as any one t has a mind to obstruct our havg / Money will immediately say we h not accounted f / Gov Supply<sup>s</sup>, how I settled w / Committee will be in our favour w respect to our Claim Prior to it. Youll no doubt Blame me f settlg w / Committee on / Terms I did, but I cd not gett better. it was therefore Hobsons Choice, thore or none & I was advised by all my friends to accept it. I wish my dear friend we hd / remainder part o our Money secured in / same ~~way~~ manner ths I hope to gett better Terms, at least I sh leave no Stone unturned, to do it. I refer f to my lres o yest y<sup>s</sup> date w respect to my Agreement w ~~the Com~~ / Committee, &

in Explana<sup>n</sup> of Acct<sup>s</sup> <sup>upon</sup> on wh<sup>ch</sup> I calculated  
you'll be to receive from Melish Goods at  
Gold Price to / am<sup>t</sup> a abt £1600 allow<sup>g</sup>  
33 pr Ct. f / discount o / £1500. I reced /  
diff<sup>er</sup> betw<sup>en</sup> / Gold Price upon / Coast & Stock<sup>s</sup>  
wh<sup>ch</sup> will put y<sup>e</sup> in goods untill I can strike  
out something here... I sh<sup>d</sup> do say<sup>ing</sup> t<sup>hat</sup> man  
can do to get y<sup>e</sup> a Supply o Goods upon some  
foot<sup>ing</sup> or o<sup>th</sup>er I much fear I sh<sup>d</sup> be scarce  
able to do it as People are frighten<sup>d</sup>  
when one talks o this beg concern<sup>d</sup> in  
rais<sup>ing</sup> a Stock to trade upon / Coast o  
Africa, they immediate say / Proprietor o /  
Coast<sup>s</sup> Factory Cash money when / Trade  
upon / Coast<sup>s</sup> was better than at Present  
& not such powerfull Buwells in / ~~the~~  
Fort<sup>s</sup> & Settlements, how<sup>ev</sup>er I hope to h<sup>ave</sup> our  
Money or least h<sup>ave</sup> it ~~se~~ secur<sup>d</sup> to us  
this Session o Parliam<sup>nt</sup> or some o<sup>th</sup>er money  
I expect to receive to Subscribe £2 or 3000  
to give a Spirit to / th<sup>is</sup>. Therefore untill  
I can by some means be done my friend  
y<sup>e</sup> must h<sup>ave</sup> Patience & live in hopes, & it  
signif<sup>ic</sup> noth<sup>ing</sup> untill such time my troubl<sup>ing</sup> y<sup>e</sup>  
is answer<sup>d</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> sear<sup>ch</sup> schemes o Trade as it  
is not in my power to put them in Exec<sup>u</sup>tion  
tho<sup>ugh</sup> I thot<sup>t</sup> when I was upon / Coast<sup>s</sup> I sh<sup>d</sup>  
h<sup>ave</sup> bn able to h<sup>ave</sup> done it, but soon after my  
arrival in England there was such a total  
Stagnam<sup>o</sup> o Credit occasion<sup>d</sup> by some  
gr<sup>eat</sup> houses fail<sup>ing</sup> t<sup>hat</sup> / Bankers wd not discount  
f<sup>or</sup> some months & ev<sup>er</sup> body t<sup>hat</sup> h<sup>ad</sup> money  
was afraid to trust it in any Scheme o  
trade but hurry<sup>d</sup> it into / Stocks, I never  
expected but on / Reputam<sup>o</sup> o hav<sup>ing</sup> £10,000  
due fm / Gov<sup>t</sup>. & on so probable a Plan o Trade

as ours was but t I shd h had many People t  
 wd h joined me as I was determined to throw  
 my Profitts into the hands untill such time as  
 we cd get our own Money to go on w, but this  
 was not to be done & a good deal owing to  
 Solomon Ashby & others. & Mr Beckford &  
 some of the Gent<sup>l</sup> wd h raised a Stock &  
 applied to / House o Commons to restrain /  
 Officers o / Committee fm tradg in Slaves, to  
 wh purpose I went to Bristol & Liverpool  
 to prevail on / Traders fm those Places to join  
 in a representation o / J<sup>ts</sup> Consequer t attend /  
 Officers in / Forts tradg. The people o Bristol  
 did write to / Committee abt it & were answered  
 t if the Officers were presented fm tradg y wd  
 make by tradg a Monopoly & y<sup>t</sup> was /  
 reason o my trouble myself. abt it. when I  
 urged what y wrote, / Committee answerd t it  
 did not signifye what y wrote, as y some-  
 times sd & wrote one thing & abt times  
 ano<sup>r</sup>, t in short they wd not take y<sup>r</sup> word  
 f anything & Solomon Ashley went abt &  
 called y all / Rogues y<sup>t</sup> he cd think o, &  
 addy fur it was y t Corrupted Stockwell  
 & t any one t is concerned w y must never  
 expect Returns, wh has g<sup>t</sup>ely hurt our  
 Affairs, & has gone g<sup>t</sup>er lengths to hurt y  
 as youll find before y finish readg this here.  
 I did all I cd to h Melibils behaviour &  
 disadvantages / free traders laboured under  
 brot before ye house o Commons, & a Day  
 was set to examine Evidce at / Base but  
 pushponed fm day to day t Mr Beckford,  
 Buxill, & sev<sup>l</sup> o<sup>r</sup>s were tired & attendg, &

so / the drop<sup>t</sup> of Pazh meetg o Parliamt to  
my sorrow & ye Oversett<sup>g</sup> o my Schemes  
of h<sup>d</sup> it gone on, fm / Arguments we h<sup>d</sup>  
prepared / House wd most certainly be  
restrained / Committee's Officers fm tradg  
in Slaves by a new Clause to y<sup>e</sup> Act, & then  
I sh<sup>d</sup> h<sup>d</sup> people enough to wd<sup>h</sup> h<sup>d</sup> joined me  
w<sup>th</sup> money to h<sup>d</sup> supplied y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>th</sup> any Quantity  
o Goods. After these thgs lay quiet till  
Graham & sev<sup>l</sup> Captains came home &  
made Complaints to the Owners, ~~but~~ then  
/ Merch<sup>ts</sup> o Bristol & Liverpool began to  
be alarmed & in July sent up a Person  
deputed fm / freemen o / Co<sup>ty</sup> the to Solicit  
/ Committee to forbid the Officers tradg in  
Slaves, & sent one o / Committee / ~~for~~  
freemen o Bristol appointed am<sup>g</sup> themselves  
to correspond w<sup>th</sup> the Deputy they h<sup>d</sup> sent to  
treat w<sup>th</sup> / Committee at London, to Liverpool  
to engage / Liverpool Merch<sup>ts</sup> to join them  
in the applic<sup>n</sup>, wh<sup>ch</sup> he effected, & Chalmer  
beg in London, they deputed him to act  
in Concert w<sup>th</sup> / person deputed fm Liverpool  
/ Complaints were / Capt<sup>s</sup> Graham  
Hamilton Brown & myself (or more  
properly / Witnesses) / two former Capt<sup>s</sup>  
h<sup>d</sup> no doubt<sup>ly</sup> told y<sup>e</sup> / reception we mett<sup>d</sup> fm  
/ Committee.

Therefore findg we cd h<sup>d</sup> no redress fm  
them, f<sup>r</sup> Mr Hollis's Presid<sup>nt</sup> at the Board, /  
Bristol & Liverpool People desired the  
Deputy's to make Applic<sup>n</sup> to / Board o  
trade, wh<sup>ch</sup> they did, & it was / Opinion o  
the Lordps to / Officers in / Forts sh<sup>d</sup>

be restrained from trading in Slaves for more than their Salaries amounted to & recommended it to / Committee to send orders only to t effect, but when they will or not is a Secret to most people tho I was told by one o / Committee t they had wrote Melvil to t purpose. If they had don't des pair, but you'll strike out something t will turn to acct, but people were fearful when / Officers had so gr a Superiority over us " " "

" Dear Husband's etc J R.

Dear Boteler London 2<sup>d</sup> Febr'y 1754  
 I hope I sh soon hear o yr safe arrival at Barbadoes ...

The Books o what was due to us from / Committee are gone to / Crash in Oct last w orders to Mrs Melvil to h them examined by impartial persons, & to pay / Balance to Mrs Husband & yr self or either o y. As to / Ball: of 5791 - 7 - 1 before / Committee's time I R done w y thg in my power to get it before Parliament this Year, but cd not succeed bec I cd not get / Accts o / Supplies sent out by Mr Lascelles audited & passed / Treasury till / latter end o Dec (say / 20<sup>th</sup>). As soon as they were, I got Certificates drawn & got / Merchts o London to sign one t we were drawn into a defensive War w / Dutch &c in defence o Forts &c. t / Fort o Dix Cove & Forrest o Atchumah was o / g<sup>th</sup> consequence to / Trade o this Man & t we ot to be reimbursed

my xtry expenses we were at 92. So soon  
as I got / London Certate signed on  
24<sup>th</sup> Decr. I went to Bristol & got one  
signed by / Merchts thr. frn thence went  
to Liverpool for same purpose but did  
not meet / same success frn them. I  
came Pos<sup>h</sup> here, thinking to brg it before Parliam<sup>t</sup>  
this Year, & made gr<sup>t</sup> In<sup>t</sup> as / Minister of t<sup>e</sup>  
purpose, when I went to Mr Pelham he  
told me it wd not come before / House this  
Year neither wd it be my In<sup>t</sup> it shd be /  
Comitee o Supply was closed & / Accts  
were not Audited & ascertained: But as he  
thot it in some Measure a hard Case &  
as it was recommended by / Publick he wd  
as I desired last Year refer it to / Lords  
o Trade & Plantans to examine into /  
merits o / Affair, so t<sup>e</sup> if they made a  
report in my fav<sup>r</sup>. I shd meet no difficulty  
next Year as it wd be recommended to  
/ House o Commons by his Majesty & come  
in w<sup>th</sup> / Annual Supplies, whereas if it was  
to be brt in by itself. Obstacles m<sup>t</sup> inter-  
vene t<sup>e</sup> m<sup>t</sup> not be to our Advantage &c.  
The Lords o Trade h appointed Tuesday f  
me to attend them to go upon an examination  
& I am in no fears but to h a report in our  
favour, it was / Channel. I was always desirous  
to h it go thro. Lord Halifax & sev<sup>l</sup> o / o<sup>r</sup>s h  
promised me to attend it & th<sup>r</sup> report in our favour  
will secure / Money to be forth coming. . . .

Dr Boteler  
In affectionate friend<sup>sh</sup> &c  
Jno Roberts

Thomas Boteler Esq<sup>r</sup> London 2<sup>d</sup> Feb 1754.

... Fortune in my opinion seems to frown upon us, do what we will Success is not allotted to us (but / contrary) for all Circumstances that has happened since / beginning o<sup>t</sup> Athanta Palaver, it was a most<sup>ly</sup> unlucky th<sup>g</sup>. indeed every<sup>th</sup>g for my Appraisal on / Coast<sup>ly</sup> seemed to conspire to our Ruin when I look back & reflect, / Trade stopp<sup>g</sup>, our Vessels making long Voyages, Loss o<sup>f</sup> Betsy, yr Voyage, & beg<sup>g</sup> kept in o<sup>f</sup> money we advanced, all to<sup>g</sup> almost distract me...

Dear Boteler determining to wind up / West India Expedim<sup>n</sup> either by com<sup>g</sup> home w<sup>th</sup> / Brig or dispos<sup>g</sup> o<sup>f</sup> her in / manner I point out:  
 ... .. I am, &c.  
 J. R.

William Husbands, London 3<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1754

Dear Husbands,

Since my last o<sup>f</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Oct w<sup>th</sup> / Books per Roberts, for yr to settle w<sup>th</sup> Mrs Melvil / Balce due to our Stock for / Committee, who I advised, informed me they had ordered him to pay yr conformable to / Bond I was necessitated to take, or yr may be assured I sh<sup>d</sup> not accept<sup>d</sup> or accept<sup>d</sup> o<sup>f</sup> / hard terms they (for perfectly know<sup>g</sup> my Situa<sup>n</sup>) imposed upon me. All I can say, we deserv'd better treatm<sup>t</sup>, who risk'd our Lives, Fortunes & Credit for / preservation o<sup>f</sup> Forts & Settlements for a due sense. We had o<sup>f</sup> the Worth & Value to this Man.

I desired Copy o<sup>f</sup> the such part o

the orders to Mr Melish I regard / settling  
w<sup>ch</sup> I thought a reasonable request, & so  
in point o<sup>f</sup> Regularity, but was refused it,  
w<sup>ch</sup> I may blame me f<sup>r</sup> not obtaining, but I  
assure y<sup>e</sup> / Committee carry it at home in as  
arbitrary a manner as the Officers possibly  
can upon / Coast, & fm the imperious Behaviour  
when Application is made to them, I suggest  
work upon themselves / g<sup>o</sup> Arbiters of Trade  
to Africa, how well Qualified f<sup>r</sup> the Office,  
or who disinterested, time only can clear  
up. I wish we were well clear o<sup>f</sup> them,  
& the candid Arbitrator, who may use  
all / all nature he is Master o<sup>f</sup>. The Acts  
are honest & proofs ag<sup>t</sup> any Inquirers.

I flatter myself we sh<sup>l</sup> meet w<sup>th</sup> better  
Treatment w<sup>th</sup> respect to / Balce due fm /  
Publick. I sh<sup>l</sup> fm time to time advise y<sup>e</sup>  
o<sup>f</sup> Steps I take, & protest I h<sup>o</sup> obtaining redress.  
y<sup>r</sup> letters o<sup>f</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> April, &  
29<sup>th</sup> May '53 came duly to hand, am  
extremely glad y<sup>e</sup> continue in perfect  
health. I sh<sup>l</sup> punctually observe what y<sup>e</sup>  
recommend in them, & in y<sup>r</sup> former letters  
(ie) to obtain a Prohibition t<sup>o</sup> / Committee's Officers  
sh<sup>l</sup> not be allowed to trade f<sup>r</sup> Slaves, w<sup>ch</sup> my  
endeavours sh<sup>l</sup> not be wanting to procure, but  
a long since given over all thro<sup>t</sup> o<sup>f</sup> applying  
to / Committee. I sh<sup>l</sup> endeavour to bring it before  
Parliamt, where I do not doubt notice will be  
taken o<sup>f</sup> / male practices o<sup>f</sup> Committee & the  
servants who h<sup>o</sup> inverted / true sense & mean  
o<sup>f</sup> Act o<sup>f</sup> Parliamt & prostituted it to the own  
advantage & liking. I did all in my power  
to get it on this Year, w<sup>ch</sup> I sh<sup>l</sup> be able to do

it must or obtain a regular time only can determine

This must certainly be Connections  
 in some Quarters we are not sensible o return  
 Melvil & / Committee men, Committee man,  
 Secretary or the Friends, & write they wd  
 surely ~~never~~ oppose never surely oppose,  
 as they h done, (Regulations proposed by  
 Board o Trade [wh I am informed they  
 h, & sent the own, pray let me know  
 Truth o it, & if this are complied w  
 a Opinion o / Merchants o Bristol &  
 Liverpool, not to mention the support g &  
 beg Advocates o Melvil, tho ~~various~~  
 various & many / Complaints agst him  
 wh puts me in mind o an old Proverb, it  
 is better one person steal a horse, than  
 ano<sup>r</sup> look over / hedge, wh in my opinion  
 may be properly applyed here, if hd  
 / late Co acted in such manner (tho in  
 some measure a right to do it) g<sup>r</sup>  
 Murmurs & Clamours wd h bn. made  
 agst them. When I mention to any  
 / Committee, I h such Advice fm y, they  
 laugh & say it does not signify what y  
 write as nobody minds it. The same  
 may be apply w Justice applyed to Melvil  
 fm what I h seen & heard o his letters.

I h wrote to Barbadoes to desire Boteles  
 to brig / returns o / Slaves by / Piriganting  
 home, wh if he does not think proper to do, I will  
 not be ~~concerned~~ <sup>concerned</sup> in any or adventure, any of America  
 If he shd return to y agn  
 approve o carryg on t Trade I desire y

w'd bring our Accts as fast as possible to a  
Balance, & I will not be fur concerned  
than / 25th March 1755 when our  
Articles o Partnership expire & I am sure  
th' is nothg to be got in / Trade by free  
Traders, t' is only & barely so a nominal  
Name. If / Chain o Monopoly, carried on  
by / Committee's Servants & Confederates,  
can be broke, & a total prohibition fm  
purchasg Slaves be effected, when we get  
our money fm / Publick & Committee,  
I will after all Accts are settled, enter  
agm into Articles o Partnership . . . . .

What grounds h y f assertg in yr  
letter 12th Feb'y, t' / Committee h  
supplied Melvil w Goods, to his hearts  
Content, do y mean / Gov's Supplies, or  
ours on private Acct. pray by first opps  
explain t' fully & get to / Bottom o it  
if y can, how do they go on w buildg  
/ Fort at ~~Ann~~ Annam abo. I desired  
y wd advise by w'y oppy. Some time  
ago y informed me / Negroes gave  
them obstructon. I never imagin'd Mr  
Melvil wd get any assist'd fm /  
People o Annama doo

I sh contribute all in my power to  
get procure a Regular, but nothg can  
be done till next year, what Plan  
to propose, I am at loss. A Joint Stock