

P. C. 2.  
103

Council Register

1 April 1752 - 26 Dec 1753

at / Council Chamber Whitehall

128<sup>th</sup> day o May 1752

Present.

The Excellencies / Lords Justices

Arch Bishop o Canterbury	Lord Chamberlain	Lord Anson
Lord Chancellor	Duke o Argyll	{ Chancellor o Prologues
Lord Privy Seal	Marquis o Hartington	
Lord Steward	Earl o Holderness	
Lord President	Horatio Walpole Esq <sup>r</sup>	
Duke o Devonshire	Sir William Yonge	
Earl o Halifax	Sir John Rushout	
Lord Berkeley o Stratton	George Dodington Esq <sup>r</sup>	
Lord Edgumbe	Sir George Lee	

7 Africa.

Order approv<sup>d</sup> / proposal  
o / African Co<sup>y</sup> of  
Buildg a Fort at  
Annamaboe

Whereas it was this day  
read at / Board a Memorial o  
/ Committee o / Co o Merchants  
Trad<sup>d</sup> to Africa Sett<sup>d</sup> forch T<sup>o</sup> in

November last they presented a Memorial to His  
Majesty, by His Grace / Duke o Newcastle; Represent<sup>g</sup>,  
T<sup>o</sup> fm / g<sup>t</sup> Consequence o a Fort at Annamaboe to /  
whole Gold Coast Trade o Africa (upon wh<sup>o</sup> /  
Support o His Majesty's American Colonys g<sup>r</sup>ly  
depends) - Fm / eager desire o / French to

2.  
Build a Fort there, & further Constant Practice o  
usurping to themselves an exclusive Trade where<sup>th</sup>  
they settle, it appeared to / Memorialists not only  
Prudent but gr<sup>ly</sup> important to / Trade Interest  
o this Na<sup>m</sup>, to Build a Fort at this<sup>e</sup> Place, in Con-  
sequence o an Offer then lately made by John  
Coramtee one o / Principal Cabbogers o /  
Frontier People, in a letter to / Right Honorable  
/ Earl o Halifax. — T by Advice lately  
received fr / Coast / Memorialists h<sup>ve</sup> been  
informed t / French h<sup>ve</sup> a second time  
attempted to erect a Fort at Annamaboe in  
such a Powerful manner as evidently shews /  
Sense t Na<sup>m</sup> has o its gr<sup>est</sup> use & imptce; T w<sup>ch</sup>  
many Costly Presents they hd so far gained /  
Affec<sup>ion</sup> o some o / Natives as to Obtain liberty  
to mark out a Piece o Ground fr t Purpose,  
& must<sup>ly</sup> undoubtedly h<sup>ve</sup> been successfull had not  
/ Squadron o Men o War, under / Command  
o Captain Buckle happily prevented them

for carrying the Scheme into Exec<sup>n</sup> - I find  
same Address / Memorialists Reason to ~~be~~  
prevented Apprehend t / Natives are deter-  
mined at all Events to h a Fort Built by the  
Prot Protecs by some European Power, t they  
were heartily inclined to give a Preference to /  
English, but t has b<sup>n</sup> so often deceived by  
the Promises to rebuild the Old one some o  
them hd now given Encouragem<sup>t</sup> to / French  
wh induced Captain Buckle to remove all  
Doubts & to convince them o / Sincerity o /  
English Inten<sup>ns</sup> to Consent t one o / chief  
o Agents o Cape Coast Castle shd be left at  
Annamaboe as a Pledge till this Work ~~shd~~<sup>is</sup>  
be performed wh / Agent Complied w<sup>o</sup> /  
Natives readily accepted - I / Memorialists  
are fur<sup>r</sup> informed t / French h promised  
some o / Natives whose Friendship they  
hd Obtained t they will return in Ten or  
Twelve Months w<sup>o</sup> / sum<sup>of</sup> £ 8,000 / Price

fixed by lease to build & w<sup>th</sup> a Squadron o men  
 o War able to Protect them whilst / Works  
 are Carryg on — T as it appears to / Memoria-  
 lists t / Trade to Africa & America grly  
 depends upon / most Expeditions use o /  
 favourable Disposins Captain Buckle has  
 left / Natives in, by His Majesty's Presents  
 & his own Prudent Conduct, They think it  
 the indispensable Duty to represent, T as  
 / English by / Confes<sup>n</sup> o / Natives themselves  
 h<sup>ve</sup> been time out o mind in Posses<sup>n</sup> o / Country  
 where / French propose to Build, & h<sup>ve</sup> paid an  
 Annual Ground Rent f / same they h<sup>ve</sup> most  
 certainly a Right exclusive o all o<sup>r</sup> Nav<sup>s</sup>  
 to / Advantages arising fm / Trade thereof.  
 T if / French are permitted to build a  
 Fort<sup>r</sup> there, all these Advantages will be  
 instantly wrested fm us, since fm sev<sup>l</sup> Part<sup>r</sup>  
 Circumstances, they are able to give a gr<sup>er</sup> Price  
 f Slaves & consequently must Engrass all

Trade of Country, & by Degrees of whole  
Coast, & in all Probability / immediate  
Ere<sup>m</sup> a Fort may renew & secure / Affec<sup>ns</sup>  
& Good Will of Natives, as they declare t if  
We will build thro ut most ambi<sup>m</sup> is to Con-  
tinue English - The Memorialists therefore  
most humbly beseech the Excellency's to take  
/ Premises into the most serious Considera<sup>m</sup>, & to  
give such Orders therein as to the gr<sup>o</sup> Wisdom  
sh seem meet - The Excellency's / Lords  
Justices this day took into Considera<sup>m</sup> / sd  
Memorial tog<sup>r</sup> w sev<sup>l</sup> letters of Advice received  
fm Cape Coast Castle wh were likewise this day  
laid before / Board, & in regard to / unimp<sup>te</sup>  
of African Trade to this Kingdom & His Majesty  
American Colonys are hereby pleased w  
/ Advice of His Majesty's Privy Council to Approve  
of Memorialists' Proposal of Buildg a New Fort at  
Annamaboe in / same place where t Old one  
stood, & The Excellency's do also hereby:

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recommend it to them to lose no time in  
Carry on 1<sup>st</sup> Work.

48] Madaira Scot Pringle & Scot.

[vide extract in red note Book. p. ]

55] London Lord Halifax "CCC" [nd]

I give myself this Honour to Inform  
 yr Lordship & I arriv'd here on / 2<sup>d</sup> [Feb]. &  
 found / Forts & Settlements in a much better Situa<sup>on</sup>  
 than I expected. Its true / Gentlemen traded w/  
 French wh they f want o Supplies were obliged to  
 do to support them as they protest t they offered to  
 Trade w / British Traders & t on / most reasonable  
 Terms but it happen'd as I h often Inform'd yr  
 Lordship t / sd Traders did not Chuse to make  
 much Trade at / Forts, so t I beg leave to refer  
 yr Lordship to letters t / Gentlemen t hd / man-  
 agement o / Affairs upon / Coast intend to do them-  
 selves / Honour o / w<sup>ch</sup> y, f / part<sup>ly</sup> Reasons  
 t Induced them to Trade w / French & what  
 pass'd betwixt them & / British Traders

Conformable to my Instructions I took pos-  
 session o Cape "C. C." on [sic] & w /  
 Gentlemen my Colleagues Came to a Resolv<sup>on</sup>  
 not to make any Trade w / French or to suffer  
 any one under our Command either Whites or  
 Blacks to Trade w<sup>th</sup> them on any prettce whatso<sup>ev</sup>  
 wh I beg yr Lordship may Be Assur'd t we  
 sh punctually adhere to & Take Care t / orders  
 we give are strictly observ'd & put in Executi<sup>on</sup>  
 If it happens t any French Ship Comes  
 Upon this part o / Coast in distress f Water  
 Provisions or otherways, & applys to any o / Chiefs

o / our Forts of Assistance / sd Chiefs will be orders to In-  
form / Captain o any such Ship t they must make / best  
o the way to Cape Coast Castle & apply to / Council of  
Relief & on / sd Captains proper Application to us, as they  
are in Alliance w / King our master we sh supply  
them w what they want so as to enable them to pro-  
ceed on the Voyage thro First admittg a proper  
Officers t we sh give [Assurance?] to make a  
Swears or to inspect wh they are in distress or not.  
as they may pretend to be so w a View to come on  
Shore & by means Comung w / Natives & Cultivate  
a friendship w them wh if they are ever Suffered  
to do yr Lordship maybe assured t it will tend  
to / Total Ruin & Destruction o / Trade to these parts  
in wh his Majesties Subjects will h but a small  
part

I hd also / Satisfaction to find in this Road this  
Majesties Ship / Humbler, Thomas Pyc Esqr  
Commander & Gentleman truly worthy o / great  
praise f his behaviour on / Coast as well as f /  
good execution o his Duty as his kind proffer o  
Service to do thgs in his power to promote  
& secure / British Interest  
[end o copy]

62] My Lord Barrington, Cape Coast Castle 12<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1749/50

I gave myself / Honour to write y<sup>r</sup> hon / Downy on  
/ 15<sup>th</sup> December last, advisg yr Lordship o my Reg Em-  
barqued f this place where I arrived / 2<sup>nd</sup> Instant  
& Conformable to my Instruc<sup>ns</sup> took Possess<sup>on</sup> o / Forts  
& Settlements wh I found in better Condi<sup>on</sup> than  
Expected.

I had also / Sent <sup>to</sup> Sallies <sup>to</sup> find in / ~~the~~  
 road His Majesty's Ship / <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ Pye  
 Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander. A Gentleman truly unitg /  
 meritg / <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ Praise f / good Exec<sup>m</sup> o his Duty  
 as well as kind Offer to / Gentlemen t he / Direc<sup>n</sup>  
 o / Brit<sup>tish</sup> Affairs here before my Arrival as since  
 to my self, to do all thgs in his Power to Promote  
 a Secure / Brit<sup>tish</sup> Interest & Authority in these  
 Parts. Th he had frequent oppys o Conversg w  
 / sd Gentleman & findg t he had taken pains to  
 make himself Acquaintd w / Present Situa<sup>m</sup>  
 o / Trade & ca, in wh I found him so gr a  
 proficient I fairly & candidly informd  
 him o / Methods I intended to Pursue f his  
 Approba<sup>n</sup>, givg him / Strongest Assurances t  
 no motives o Lucre or o Considera<sup>n</sup>s sh w<sup>d</sup>  
 Prevail w me to Permit / french to make  
 Trade w any o his Majesty's Subjects under  
 / Direc<sup>n</sup> o this place, & in a vy Special  
 fm havg any Intercourse w / natives, I  
 Beg leave to refer yr Lordship to / sd Gentle-  
 man (w yr Lordships perm<sup>ss</sup>) I sh by all  
 Conveyes Communicate my Sentiments &  
 Transacts to yr Lordship . . .

London, Henry Lasselles, 23<sup>d</sup> March in Dolphin

I wrote to y by / Surprise in / height o a  
severe fever wh cd not be otherwise than imperfect  
yet I hope it came safe as well as our Publick  
letters beg f brevity sake beg obliged to refer to /  
matter thereof; / Occurrences since I shd not  
forgive myself (beg thank God perfectly in health)  
were I to neglect advertizing y of, to whom I wish  
I cd convey evy minute transact<sup>n</sup>, as I shd take  
I pride o the passg so worthy a friend & so Com-  
petent a Judge. I cannot recollect wh I in-  
stanced to y in my former / trade t had bin  
carried on bet. / Agents here & / French; f  
wh those Gent<sup>l</sup> insinuate they be reasons suf-  
ficient to assign / Publick, & wh indeed I found  
had bin so efficacious w Commodore Pye o /  
Humber as to prevent his Endeavours to frustrate  
it. Tho' there are Contracts Subsistg this Inst. bet.  
those Gent<sup>l</sup> & two french Ships now lyg in /  
road to be slaved off, wh I renounce all part<sup>r</sup>  
in & disclaim all benefit & Advantage therefrom  
notw<sup>g</sup> I am intitled to a third o Profits proceedg  
fm such Contracts, yet beg sent abroad by /  
Publick, cannot ~~find~~ Judge otherwise than t  
Such Cond<sup>t</sup> must be disagreeable to my Con-  
stituents, & partly yrself, my good Patron, havg  
a gr<sup>t</sup> Melian<sup>n</sup> on my landg to Annul those  
Contracts I consulted Commodore Pye & / Brit-  
ish Commanders here & at Annamaboa there-  
upon, who were all Consentg t as / goods were  
landed & partly disposed o before my arrival,  
a peace Concluded betw both Crowns, /  
honour o / English Na<sup>n</sup> in a strict Sense

Concerned, it be<sup>d</sup> foreign to our Countrymen to recede  
 from the Compact. Such Contracts ought to be full-  
 filled, to wh<sup>ch</sup> I ca<sup>n</sup> not otherwise than Concur &  
 hope / reasons above will be a sufficient Excuse f  
 my ~~not~~ agreeing therunto, occasioned, good Sir,  
 as I will be pleas'd to observe, from / necessity o  
 Affairs, or not from / least natural tendency, of?  
 sh<sup>d</sup> prosecute all methods effectually to prevent  
 all Species o French Trade not only by t<sup>he</sup> Ind<sup>ian</sup>  
 or White People, but in a special manner / Natives  
 67] and to forward such good purpose, as they h<sup>ave</sup> /  
 Trade o<sup>ne</sup> Annamaboa partly at least I  
 went thro' . . . [Fisher pp 61-62] . . . / Paths  
 wh<sup>ich</sup> h<sup>ave</sup> been closed there seven years wh<sup>ich</sup>? flatter  
 myself some some to h<sup>ave</sup> / pleasure o informing  
 if are opened as I sh<sup>d</sup> make it my Study to  
 accomplish / some if / Dutch Natives will Concur,  
 wh<sup>ich</sup> will redound to publick Emolument & be  
 a signal Advantage to ev<sup>ery</sup> private trader o /  
 smallest Class, but / Sea be<sup>d</sup> had y<sup>e</sup> two  
 Captains & myself were in imminent  
 danger o be<sup>d</sup> drowned go<sup>ing</sup> off in a Canoe  
 to / Barge wait<sup>ing</sup> for us & y<sup>e</sup> Sea continuing  
 so boisterous & rough we ca<sup>n</sup> not go on shore,  
 The next day altho I attempted it often, y<sup>e</sup>r  
 was oblig'd to return to "C.C.C." to my  
 Concern & disappointment.

67] Since writ<sup>ing</sup> thus, for a French Ship  
 is come in sight to whom I dispatch /  
 Officer o / Guard<sup>ship</sup> to tell / French Captain he  
 must not anchor here, or on this side / River  
 Volto, unless he is distressed f Wood, Water &c,  
 wh<sup>ich</sup>, on his permitt<sup>ing</sup> our Officer to Continue  
 on board to prevent any trade w / Natives (as  
 there is a peace betw<sup>een</sup> our Royal Master & / French  
 King) I will supply his Wants, otherwise

I sh order his Vessell to be fired upon from / Castle  
& drive out o/ road, I sh also order / Negroes to  
seize his Boats, if he presumes to send on  
Shore to trade.

Two of French Ships o Force I also found an-  
chored in / night at Annamaboa & Amissa.  
I beg leave to refer y to / Coppies o letters I dis-  
patched to / Commanders o them & our ffaction  
at / former place, enclosed to y \* in our Publick  
letter, wh had such an Effect t noting one o French-  
men told Captain Rosseler o / Dolphin Geneau,  
t his orders were to trade at Annamaboa &  
if he met w Molestam to suffer his Vessell to  
be sunk, but not to weigh anchor, I sh hear g  
we intended to arm / Speeches all Gallies w  
Guns, Men & Ammunition (wh Rumours we spread  
abroad on purpose) to come down & oblige them  
to weigh, they thot Expedient to make off & are  
passed. / Volta

If will please to remark, good Sir, by /  
former parts pt o this letter how Strenuous /  
French are to embrace this trade, & Ingratiate  
themselves w / Natives at / disadvantages  
(wh are true) John Currantees muntuned, f they  
cannot be so stupid but to know / Negroes  
impose bad sold upon them, but then the  
brandy cost them little in Europe, & whilst  
they are permitted to lye at Annamaboa or  
elsewhere, they h advantage o / slave trade,  
wh is all they aim at & h chiefly at Heart.

As an Xtry motive . . . [Fisher. 62-63] . . .  
by this oppy o / Dolphin.

I sh / Satis facta most days o dismissing one  
or more French Vessells out o this road, who  
anchor here for Water, Wood or o<sup>r</sup> Necessaries,  
t is incredible / quantity the are on this

Coast, / Trade I fear must be intirely lost to  
 Windward. I sh study all Measures to effectually  
 frustrate all French traffic in these  
 pts & put them in vacu<sup>m</sup> w as much Industry  
 & Expedition as / Circumstances & Affairs will  
 admit. And as a Step towards such good purposes  
 by w my Colleagues purchases purchased a  
 Sloop on / Coast wh we are fitting up & intend  
 to arm w Guns t can be spared fm / Forts, &  
 when a French Vessel anchors at Annam above or  
 elsewhere, where we h no Fortific<sup>n</sup>, myself will  
 take Command on board & oblige such French-  
 man to sail on to o<sup>r</sup> side / Vollo, if this will be  
 no possibility o effectually keepg them out o  
 this trade (as / Mem o War are gone off / Coast)  
 but by havg a Couple o Small Cruisers con-  
 tinually upon / Coast to plect those places  
 where we h no Fort established. The Sloop  
 will be o gr use f rebuildg / Fort at Annam-  
 maboa & repar<sup>n</sup> o Commanda which is  
 nowell / sic, now well? ~~at Annam~~ settled  
 & / Inhabitants more numerous than in /  
 Dutch Town, & as I concerted w my Compeers  
 a Plan in / pres<sup>n</sup> o Commodore Bye, to  
 regain / landg place usurped & taken fm us  
 by / Dutch & defend / Materials lying under  
 our Protec<sup>n</sup> in the Priviledges, I propose to  
 get materials ready to rebuild a Platform  
 w two flankers [blankers?] opposite / Dutch  
 Fort wh will cover / landg place & to move  
 some Guns t can be spared fm o<sup>r</sup> places &  
 mount them thereon, wh I hope to complete in  
 6 or 8 Months; & as we sh get informac<sup>n</sup>  
 when any o His Majestys Matsy Ships o  
 War arrive to Windward, myself or one o  
 my Colleagues will go to Commanda &  
 prepare everythg in order & then meet

[o ship]

/ Commander o such ship at Succondee wh is y  
deputies to Windward o Commenda, consult w  
him abt recovering our lost priviledge aforesaid,  
& as soon as / man o war [comes?] abt Succondee  
we sh order our / mans people off to fish at / place they  
usually did (before / ship ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~dis~~ <sup>dis</sup> ~~it~~), on such pro-  
ceedg / Dutch will instantly fire at / Canoes, wh after  
a Remonstrance & thro persuading us, we sh return from  
our Fort & keep them employ'd till / man o war  
comes up to assist us, wh I hope we sh not be in  
want o. I hope to recover these lost Priviledges &  
to advance Interest & Jurisdiction, b'm y<sup>e</sup> Consumptions  
decline, they belong (b'm) in conseq<sup>t</sup> with /  
supplies & ~~business~~ <sup>business</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~respect~~ <sup>respect</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~support~~ <sup>support</sup> /  
Forts & Settlements in a diff manner than they be  
hitherto b'm to / Int<sup>t</sup> & Emolum<sup>t</sup> o / Publick my own  
private Honour & y<sup>r</sup> Applause to y<sup>r</sup> self my ap-  
proved worthy Patron, f y<sup>r</sup> choice o me in so  
publick a Stamp.

A landg place at Commenda is o sing<sup>l</sup> con-  
cern to / British<sup>n</sup> na<sup>n</sup>, beg in / Center o / Gold  
Coast trade & has Parties to / most Considerable  
trading Countries thereon

" I am sensible . . . insignificant Dutch Fort  
[Fisher p. 63]

I am sorry to say Sir, this priviledge was  
ceded to / Dutch in a scandalous manner by  
Messrs Chrichton, Chalmer & Craick (the two  
as mentioned before return by / Dolphin) who had  
direct<sup>n</sup> o / Coy affairs, w<sup>ch</sup> advantages belong<sup>g</sup>  
to / English na<sup>n</sup> wh, w<sup>ch</sup> Concess<sup>n</sup> I speak o, will  
69] require g<sup>t</sup> Expence & vast Expence to recover,  
however w<sup>ch</sup> / assistance aforesaid I hope to

[pressingly]

estate / handg place of property & Priviledge & never  
 to be quitted in these parts so remote fm redress,  
 & distant fm Appeal, & if to be acquired or regained,  
 must be affected by Vigour on / Spot & Maintained  
 by resolution. I h not my fortune to make, if I can  
 well Judge, good Sir, by such measures or turns  
 to serve iniquitous, yet I pride myself w actg  
 upon / Square & Consider / advantages o my  
 Constituents Superior to my own Emolument. A  
 fur instce o it, tho if may savour o too much  
 pride yet I cannot forbear advancg here; a  
 French ship a few days ago anchored in this  
 road fm Rochelle, / Capt came on shore & w  
 pressinglly desired to put his Cargo amtg  
 to 4000 l. first cost in France into trade w us, /  
 profits o this affair wh we cd be fulfilled in  
 two months wd h bn a clear 1000 pieces in  
 our Pockets, wh I had Virtue enough to decline  
 (not fm any Orders agst such a thg but Natl  
 antipathy to Commerce w t Nam) & w difficulty  
 got my Colleagues to drop it, wh I must say  
 h strong appetite to such traffick & h already  
 acquired by [it?] upwrd o 4000 pieces. Now,  
 I sh be wiser fond to sequester myself fm / any  
 Lucrative, & tho I love money as well as any  
 man in England, wd not get it out o /  
 Path t is fair & open to / most supercilious  
 eye

In / former part o this letter . . . .  
 money laid out in Commodities of trade  
 [Fishes p 63]

A French Vessel passed by here two days  
 under Topsails & anchored to trade at Annam-  
 maboa w a Choice Command & Assortment to

• there by

my g<sup>t</sup> Concern as well as / English Capt's etc. By  
some good chance three o his men ran away w his  
Boat in / night, were taken by / Negroes at Queen  
Ann's Point & bro<sup>t</sup> hither. The French Captain,  
fearing this, solicited f his men & Boat I dispatched  
him an Answer t he desired no [?] favour fm /  
People whose Constituents' Liberties he was then infringing  
upon, but to convince [him] o our Readiness not  
to take advantage but to do good offices, he weighed  
Anchor, w<sup>o</sup> loss o time, & did not offer to stop to  
trade till he reached Accra [where <sup>his</sup> his Boat &  
People shd be delivered him thereby] / Gov<sup>r</sup> o / Eng-  
East Ind<sup>y</sup> Fort at Accra, upon wh he weighed &  
stood off / Coast & I sent his Boat & Men after  
him to Accra, & he before me a letter o thanks fm  
/ English Commanders at Annamaboa. I may  
depend, Sir, on my utmost Efforts to distress /  
traders o t<sup>e</sup> Na<sup>n</sup> wh I sh be free enough  
70] to advise y o fm time to time, & o any o<sup>r</sup> Cir-  
cumstances deserving yr Note & hope to approve my-  
self in all things a zealous Contributor to British  
Commerce & to give y on all Occas<sup>ns</sup> Satisfaction  
Equal to yr Wishes, tho I am sorry to my Soul  
to say it will be a thing almost impossible to keep  
/ French fm Annamaboa w<sup>o</sup> a couple o Cruizers  
always upon / Coast, one o wh shd be under / dir-  
ec<sup>n</sup> o Council here. The Men o War only run  
down / Coast, / French Ships follow them at /  
distance o only 10 or 12 leagues, & after the de-  
parture - f / Men o War are gently in a hurry  
to get off / Coast - come down & trade at Ann<sup>a</sup>  
namaboa, I beg, when I relate these Circumstances,  
I may be favoured w yr Credence t they are  
o<sup>r</sup> facts, wh I transmit upon strict Honours &  
Faith, will knowg such are / Pupals I delight

[Painapals]

in & I must say I think myself under a ne-  
 cessity in this place to intrude a few observa<sup>ns</sup>,  
 perhaps not unworthy yr indulg<sup>ce</sup> & Attent<sup>ns</sup>.  
 The Sir, heretofore observed & do agn repeat,  
 if / French persist in trad<sup>g</sup> on / Gold Coast  
 w<sup>th</sup> yr Cargoes they br<sup>g</sup> & force they h<sup>ave</sup> or are  
 permitted so to do, farewell English Benefit  
 & Advantage, to save it here will be a kind  
 o' miracle - my prosecut<sup>g</sup> ev<sup>er</sup> Effort in / power  
 o' man wh<sup>o</sup> I h<sup>ave</sup> & sh<sup>all</sup> continue to do will be  
 o' v<sup>ery</sup> trifl<sup>g</sup> avail. The french must absolutely  
 be forbid<sup>d</sup> by th<sup>eir</sup> own Gov. to come upon / Gold  
 Coast (wh<sup>o</sup> I fear never will be done by / Council  
 o' France) or else / English must keep on<sup>t</sup> two  
 men o' War Sloop<sup>s</sup> continually, one to lie at  
 Cape Appollonia or three Points, whilst  
 t<sup>he</sup> other goes round / Coast

The Sloop at Appollonia will oblige / French  
 Vessells to keep out to Sea till they get to Lee-  
 ward o' Pulerz Volta, & sh<sup>ould</sup> they presume to  
 come in aft<sup>er</sup>wards we can send agn to such  
 Quizer fm / Forts to Windward, who may  
 come down w<sup>th</sup> / Sloop<sup>s</sup> & drive /  
 French men off agn, but, Sir, when this is done  
 th<sup>ere</sup> is a worse dilemma. to be Considered, /  
 plan mention<sup>d</sup> (if well executed) will not  
 be effectual unless / Commanders h<sup>ave</sup> orders  
 to pursue & drive / French fm under / Dutch  
 Forts, Th<sup>ere</sup> is a v<sup>ery</sup> recent Precedent of such a  
 th<sup>ing</sup>. Cap<sup>t</sup> Boyce Commander o' His Matys Ship /  
 Greyhound in / year 1742/3 obliged a french  
 Captain to weigh fm under / Peipol Dutch  
 Fort St Georges Elmina, & if / same cd be

done now, it wd effectually preserve / Trade. Now  
Sir, please to consider / or side / Ques<sup>n</sup> & suppose  
I proposals mentioned neglected & nothing done  
in them (wh<sup>ch</sup> I pray God may not be / Case)  
what are we do<sup>g</sup> at Cape Coast Castle . . . . .  
(who will buy any Slaves) [ Fisher pp 63-64 ]  
by wh<sup>ch</sup> we st<sup>d</sup> means we shd be enabled to  
Y<sup>t</sup> furnish the English traders w<sup>th</sup> / be<sup>th</sup> sort & /  
Ballce o such French traffick w<sup>d</sup> Center in Gr Brit<sup>n</sup>  
but if / French can be entirely kept off / Gold  
Coast ( / w<sup>ch</sup> I h<sup>av</sup> at heart & wish for my soul )  
& / Forts & Settlements put into / hands o a Body o  
Mercht<sup>s</sup> who will raise a Stock to preserve / Trade to  
/ British Subjects & f<sup>r</sup> thr own private Benefit, it  
wd effectually do / Measures at<sup>d</sup> attended to. Or-  
wise / Trade will be entirely lost & / Parts o /  
French rest in Holland, f<sup>r</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> French Ships we  
we beat off fr<sup>m</sup> our Forts is do<sup>g</sup> / Dutch a most  
Eminent good Service, whereby / English affairs  
will decline, / Forts &c in a Year or two reduced  
to a Condi<sup>n</sup> in w<sup>ch</sup> of gent will care  
to take them into possession as it will cost an im-  
mense Sum to put them into proper repairs so as  
to secure thr own property, protect trade &  
support / British Interest<sup>s</sup> in Africa.

I take / freedom to refer y<sup>e</sup> to a letter in-  
closed in / Publick letter fr<sup>m</sup> Seven Captains o  
British Vessells at Annamaboo, to w<sup>ch</sup> we own  
answer thereunto; y<sup>e</sup> will see by it how g<sup>rea</sup>  
we are distressed by / daily infringe<sup>mt</sup>s o  
these Insolent people, & hope you<sup>l</sup> be arid-  
uous to follow / Gov Assist<sup>ce</sup> t<sup>h</sup> we may be en-  
abled to chastise them as they deserve.

Y<sup>e</sup> will also a letter [sic] fr<sup>m</sup> Gov Clifton  
/ Cos Factor at Annamaboo whereby y<sup>e</sup> will

dejected

find how little Courante is to be depended upon. I am in a manner at these or cross circumstances & were it not for I were confident of yr kind Interposition & friendship, as long as I merit it, shd be more so.

M<sup>r</sup> Stockwell is going to Popoa & purposes building a Fort there at his own Expence. I am golly at a loss how to conduct myself in the affairs, as well as many o<sup>r</sup>s have not so much as a Copy o<sup>f</sup> Cos' Charter here & o<sup>ur</sup> Course know not our own Establish<sup>mt</sup>

PS. I proposed to Messrs Husband & Botiler to ship on our Accts. 90 Slaves on board / Speedwell wh they agreed to & Captain Bellamy sailed hence / 3<sup>rd</sup> & for New / 7<sup>th</sup> where he was obliged to go to take on board o<sup>f</sup> Slaves we agreed to pay \$5 Currency p head Freight.

~~92] To Lord Duplin March 23<sup>d</sup> 49 [50]~~

many o<sup>r</sup> papers are want<sup>d</sup> (o<sup>ur</sup> Copy's w<sup>o</sup>ld be v<sup>y</sup> useful) I he searched logs [to gather?] all / old Treaties & Agreements bet. / Dutch & Principals here, o<sup>ur</sup> wh they are but few & v<sup>y</sup> incomplete & unsatisfactory, so t we must maintain our Rights as well as we can. I may be satisfied, Sir, I sh never give up one Inch or most minute point

T 70 | 1476

42] To Lord Duplin March 23<sup>d</sup> 49. [50]

... By / Speedwell Galley... I wrote  
to yr Lordship a short State o<sup>r</sup> Matters here...  
now ggn by / Dolphin Smead. ...

My former Concluser w<sup>th</sup> mentioning how num-  
erous / French are on this Coast I cd fill up  
this w<sup>th</sup> a recital o<sup>f</sup> nothing else f<sup>r</sup> by / Accts o<sup>f</sup> / Old-  
est Captains on this Trade / French never [made]  
such so vigorous Efforts to Engross / whole Trade  
as at present. The Commodities they are freighted  
w<sup>th</sup> are extreme well Assorted & beg chiefly  
Stout Ships carry a fforce to make no Indist<sup>t</sup>  
resistance, as / Trade o<sup>f</sup> Anomaboe seems prin-  
cipally<sup>r</sup> the mark, I w<sup>th</sup> this w<sup>th</sup> Commodore  
Pfe & Beard o<sup>f</sup> / Surprise before they left / Coast  
& after mak<sup>g</sup> John Currantee a lge present o<sup>f</sup>  
Scarlet Cloth Hat & Feather & gte Quantity  
o<sup>f</sup> liquors & used w<sup>th</sup> Endeavour & Motive in  
our power to Engage him to espouse yr

43] Interest o<sup>f</sup> / Publick Traders w<sup>th</sup> Vigour &  
Spirit, it just made Impres<sup>n</sup> enough  
upon him to obtain a feint<sup>r</sup> promise, t<sup>h</sup> he wd  
endeavour to present / Natives fm Trade w<sup>th</sup>  
/ French if he cd, & to assist us to Rebuild / Fort  
the, wh<sup>ch</sup> I think to fix / plan o<sup>f</sup>, & to clear / old  
works, & lay in Materials & if Supplied, in two  
Years perhaps may Complete it, but John  
Currantee is such an Artfull Selfish Fellow  
th<sup>at</sup> is not / least dependce on him. He regards  
nothg but what tends to his present advantage,  
he has not / least sense o<sup>f</sup> returning an Oblig<sup>n</sup>, & is  
a Total Stranger to gratitude, a repeated Succes<sup>n</sup>  
o<sup>f</sup> Presents gain an Equal Succes<sup>n</sup> o<sup>f</sup> promises.

but no good works for him. I never knew a  
 negroe best us so few good Qualities & Curved  
 as more bad ones. The Kind Civilities & Gentle  
 Treatments of his Boy in England is of no Concern to  
 him nor avail to us. I have consented a plan to  
 Open / Paths to / Ashantes who have been shut up  
 The [sic] seven years provided / Dutch & Natives  
 can be brot to Concur. I hope to Master all  
 Difficulties & to be able soon to give yr Ldps an  
 acct they are open who will redound to publick  
 Benefits by being a Signal advantage to us &  
 private Traders of most Minute Class. I hope  
 to Advance Trade from / Consumptive Decline it  
 has been in so long & to Maintain English  
 Prerogative as it is to be in despite of our  
 French Competitors who for this daily Infringe  
 on this Coast I long to Chastise, & as a small  
 Expedient for such purpose I purchased a  
 Sloop on / Coast which I am fitting up & intend  
 to Arm w<sup>th</sup> Guns &c & can be spared for /  
 Forts & when a French Vessel anchors at  
 14] Annamaboe or Else where <sup>where?</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> no Fortifica<sup>ns</sup>  
 my self will take Command of her & Oblige such  
 French men to Weigh & pass / Volta. Diverse it will  
 be morally impossible to keep them off. / Stops will also  
 be of use to carry Materials for Rebuilding / Fort & Rep-  
 aration of Commodore where I intend to begin a  
 platform w<sup>th</sup> two Flankers to Endeavour to  
 Retake / Land & place ceded to / Dutch in a most  
 shamefull manner by Messrs ~~Crichton~~ Crichton  
 Charmer & Craig who had / management of /  
 Africa's Affairs & from bad principles w<sup>ch</sup>  
 perillous Conduct relinquished such Ad-  
 vantages them [the?] It is Concern I speak  
 it will Require g<sup>te</sup> Expence & Labour to re-take

Barrington Wm Willman 2nd Viscount Barrington  
(1714-1793) Statesman. . . MP of Berwick upon Tweed 1740  
& Plymouth 1754 & 1755. . . Lord Commissioner & admiralty &  
member of Committee of impeachment of Lord 1746, Privy Council  
1755. Chancellor & exchequer 1761. . . Dict Nat Biog. Index Epistol  
y<sup>th</sup> I sh endeavor ab to w / Assist<sup>ce</sup> o a Ship o War [?] [?]  
when one comes upon / Coast, f whilst I am resident &  
in Authority here property sh needn be lost w<sup>th</sup>  
British & Privilege<sup>s</sup> relinquish'd to / Subjects o  
any Nat<sup>n</sup> it beg too remote fm redress & too Dis-  
tant fm Appeal & when to be required as in y<sup>e</sup>  
Case afores<sup>d</sup>. Sh be effect'd vigorously on y<sup>e</sup> Spot  
& Maintained by resolut<sup>n</sup> & fforce, & Submit to  
y<sup>e</sup> Lordships & / Publick Exprence o such an  
understandg. f I cannot help thinkg / Public  
Money Can [sic] be better laid out & Accrd f  
than in ret<sup>n</sup>ic<sup>o</sup> [sic] & Securg / British  
property & priviledges. I am Confident it will  
appear t by such Methods I sh no private  
ffortune to make or Turns to Serve Inequ  
Inquiries [sic] y<sup>th</sup> I pride myself in [?] [?]  
upon / Square, in Actg upon / Square, &  
Considerg / Advantage o my fellow  
Subjects & Constituents prior to my own benefit  
An insta o it . . . [The French ship Com Rochelle  
w a cargo worth £1000, as on p. 16 supra].

To Lordships most faithfully devoted  
Humble Serv<sup>t</sup> John Roberts

5 London

Lord Viscount Barrington

I wrote to y<sup>e</sup> Lordship fm on board / Surprise

Am sorry t I sh thought more agreeable

476] To inform y o than a declamatory harangue  
on / number o / French Traders on this Coast  
who h / trade so much at heart & take such  
vigorous Methods to ingratit by the Numbers

& Strength they Carry, I can see nothing less at present than a total Subversion o British Commerce & irreparable decline o Forts & Settlements attend it in Yr Honble Board to Chastise them which a delay will rather expedite

By / remember o French sail I said to windward / trade must be already lost & can only be maintained a little in these parts by protectg / trade & supportg / Forts. I sh accord to my ability prosecute w / methods to prevent French Successes & trade within my Jurisdiction, not only betw French & White people but in an especial manner / Natives

Shd Captains o French traders be at any time distressed f wood water &c & apply to any o our Out Forts. To / Chiefs thereof he sent orders to tell such Commanders from time to time they must proceed to Cape Coast Castle & Solicit / Council here f such supplies & upon thr permittg our Officer to inspect into thr Complaints & continue on board them to prevent thr tradg clandestinely w / Natives. I sh furnish them Necessarys And he made this a lastg order on my arrival f / Subjects o th Nation sh never be suffered to come on shore to visitate themselves into / Confidenc o / Inhabitants or under any subterfuge to make overtures o Trade whilst I am Resident here, And under / Predicaments aforesaid, Th most days / Satisfaction & dismissing to dismiss one or more French Vessels fm before Cape Coast Castle.

The Men o War beg gone off / Coast two Frenchmen o Force anchored at Annamaboe & Amussa to whom our ffactors at / Former Place dispatched proper letters, & also to

John Carrantee (1 Boy Williams Father) to prevent  
them trading who were quite ineffectual until they  
heard we were fitting out / Speedwell Galley, & brot  
/ Stores &c, w<sup>th</sup> Guns men & Ammunition<sup>n</sup> from /  
Castle to come down & oblige them to depart, they  
thot proper to weigh & stand off / Coast, not w<sup>th</sup>  
one o / Captains told Cap<sup>t</sup>. Rossiter of Dolphin  
47] Snows his orders were, to anchor & trade at  
Annamaboe & if he met us molest<sup>n</sup> to suffer  
his vessel to be sunk, but not to weigh upon any  
Acc<sup>n</sup>. I beg to assure Yr Lordship they are so  
zealous after / slave trade, & to oblige & get / Confidence  
o / natives they take gold o them in trade not worth  
12 s. per Oz. f / full value. & such Refuse Slaves  
english Traders will not meddle w<sup>th</sup> on any Consider<sup>n</sup>  
Y<sup>r</sup> prevailg Efforts, Yr Lordship will say, to get /  
trade & favour o a set o People who are intent on  
little but the present Advantage. I sh<sup>d</sup> study w<sup>th</sup>  
means to obstruct & frustrate such schemes, &  
put them in execu<sup>n</sup> as expeditiously as / Circum-  
stances o affairs will admit, but am Diffident  
o the Prevalce. f in plain truth, my Lord, / french  
must absolutely be forbid by the own Gov<sup>t</sup> to come  
upon / Gold Coast, or / Admety o Gt Britain must  
keep out two men o War Sloop<sup>s</sup> continually,  
One to lye at Cape Apolonia or three Points  
whilst t<sup>h</sup> other goes round / Coast, / Sloop at  
Apolonia will oblige / french Vessels to keep out  
at sea to sea until they get to deaward o / River  
Volta, & shd they presume to come in afterwards  
we can send ag<sup>n</sup> to such Cruizer to windward from  
/ forts, who may come down in twelve hours &  
drive / frenchmen off ag<sup>n</sup>, such a method well  
executed wd do. / Captains o such Cruizers to

& Strength they Carry, I can see nothing less at present than a total Subversion o British Commerce & irreparable decline o Forts & Settlements attend it in Y<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Board to Chastise them which a delay will rather expedite

By / remember o French sails I sail to windward / Trade must be already lost thro' & can only be maintained a little in these parts by protectg / Trade & supportg / Forts. I sh accord to my ability prosecute w<sup>y</sup> method to prevent French Successes & Trade within my Jurisdiction, not only betw<sup>n</sup> French & White people but in an especial manner / Natives

Shd Captains o French Traders be at any time distressed f Wood Water &c & apply to any o our Out Forts, to / Chiefs thereof I sh send orders to tell such Commanders from time to time they must proceed to Cape Coast Castle & Solicit / Council here f such Supplies & upon th<sup>r</sup> permittg our Officer to inspect into th<sup>r</sup> Complaints & continue on board them to prevent th<sup>r</sup> tradg clandestinely w<sup>th</sup> / Natives. I sh furnish them Necessarys, And he made this a lastg order on my arrival f / Subjects o th<sup>r</sup> Nation sh never be suffered to come on shore to insinuate themselves into / Confid<sup>ce</sup> o / Inhabitants, or under any subterfuge to make overtures o Trade whil<sup>st</sup> I am President here, And under / Predicaments aforesaid, I sh most days / Satisfac<sup>ion</sup> & dismiss<sup>ing</sup> to dismiss one or more French Vessels fm before Cape Coast Castle.

The Men o War beg gone off / Coast two Frenchmen o Force anchor'd at Annamaboe & Amissa to whom our ffactors at / Former Place dispatched proper letters, & also to

John Currantee (1 Boy Williams Father) to prevent  
them trading who were quite ineffectual until they  
heard we were fitting out / Speedwell Gally, & Bro  
/ Stores &c, w<sup>th</sup> Guns men & Ammunition for /  
Castle to come down & oblige them to depart, they  
thot proper to weigh & stand off / Coast, not w<sup>th</sup>  
one o' Captains bold Capt. Pissiter of Dolphin  
47] Snows his orders were to anchor & trade at  
Annamaboe & if he met w<sup>th</sup> modesty to suffer  
his vessel to be sunk, but not to weigh upon any  
Acc<sup>n</sup>. I beg to assure Y<sup>r</sup> Lordship they are so  
zealous after / slave trade, & to oblige & get / Confidence  
o' / natives they take gold o' them in trade not worth  
12 s. per Oz. f / full value, & such Refuse Slaves  
English Traders will not meddle w<sup>th</sup> on any Considera<sup>n</sup>  
w<sup>th</sup> prevailg Efforts, Y<sup>r</sup> Lordship will say, to get /  
Trade & favours o' a Set o' People who are intent on  
little but the present Advantage. I sh<sup>d</sup> study w<sup>th</sup>  
means to obstruct & Frustrate such schemes &  
put them in execu<sup>n</sup> as expeditiously as / Circum-  
stances o' affairs will admit, but am Diffident  
o' the Prevalence. f in plain truth, my Lord, / french  
must absolutely be forbid by the crown Gov<sup>t</sup> to come  
upon / Gold Coast, or / Admety o' G<sup>t</sup> Britain must  
keep out two men o' War Sloopz continually,  
One to lye at Cape Apollonia or three Points  
whilst / other goes round / Coast, / Sloop at  
Apollonia will oblige / french Vessels to keep out  
at sea to sea until they get to deaward o' / River  
Volta, & shd they presume to come in afterwards  
we can send ag<sup>n</sup> to such Cruiser to windward for  
/ efforts, who may come down in twelve hours &  
drive / frenchmen off ag<sup>n</sup>, such a method well  
executed wd do. / Captains o' such Cruizers to

Members of Council here & to act agreeable  
to Resolutions thereof.

In what I am fur<sup>r</sup> going to advance my  
word I wd not be understood to insinuate  
& intend ought degradg to Reputations o  
t brave set o men employed in his Majesty's  
navy. But ~~plenty~~ 'tis a truth too well  
experienced t / men o war only run down &  
Coast & French Traders follow them at  
distance o time or likewise leagues & as soon as  
departed t / Commanders what w / terror o  
his Inclement Country & perhaps o Causes  
not quite so engag<sup>d</sup> as Cruisers in a more  
temperate Climate, are generally in a hurry to get  
off / Coast & come down & trade at Annamaboe  
at o<sup>r</sup> places where we h no fortific<sup>n</sup> & as they  
carry fr<sup>m</sup> 12 to 20 Six pounders Trade in open  
defiance o / British Captains (who come out only  
o a Signal Gun perhaps) and in contempt o any  
force we can send fr<sup>m</sup> these forts, I take  
o / freedom to Refer yr Lordship to enclosed  
Copy o a Letter fr<sup>m</sup> / English Captains at  
Annamaboe o my Answer thereunto. I was ob-  
liged to send / original to / Co & w<sup>h</sup> it had b<sup>e</sup>n  
transmitted to yr Lordship, by it yr Lordship will  
see how we are distressed to Resent / daily  
Infringem<sup>ts</sup> o these Insolent people. I h en-  
closed my Letter to Mr Clifton our Factor & his  
Answer fr<sup>m</sup> Annamaboe, by wh<sup>ch</sup> yr Lord-  
ship will see how little John Curran is  
to be depended on & how much he has  
British Interest at heart in recompense o  
/ Generosity to his Boy in England, his  
Exhibi<sup>n</sup> fr<sup>m</sup> / Co & Repeated Dashes

[Presently] we send him continually I am under these Dilemmas for a natural Antipathy to or prejudice agst / Subjects o France, almost dejected, And were I not confident o Yr Lordships interpos'n to forward Gov Assistce, shd be more so.

Two days ago a Stout Vessel o 600 Slaves passed by under top sails, Anchored at Annamaboe, & having a Choice assortment o Commodities Commanded all / Trade o / Place for / English Captains thr. By some good fortune part o his men Run away, as his Boat were taken at Queen Annas Point by / Negroes & brot to Cape Coast Castle, The French Captain hear'g this Solicits us for his Men & boat. I sent him word he deserved no favour for People whose Constituent's priviledges he was them openly & Insolently infring, but to convince him o our Dispos'n more to do good Offices than take Advantages, inform'd him if he weigh'd wot loss o time & did not stop to trade till he came to Accra his men & boat shd be delivered to him by / English Chief thr. Upon wh he thot proper to depart & I sent his People & Boat after him & he / Satisfac'd o a letter o thanks for / British Commanders f such Conduct.

As / french h such a number o Vessels on / Coast & are so earnest after Trade o Annamaboe where we have no Fort I have purchased a Sloop w my Colleagues wh I am fitt'g up & intend to arm w Guns &c

It can be spared from yr Forts, & when a French  
 ship anchors to trade thro or elsewhere, where  
 [if] we h no Fortificians, myself will take Com-  
 mand o her & oblige such french men to pass  
 to Volta & keep her continually cruising till  
 Ships or Sloops o War reach this Coast wh,  
 notw<sup>g</sup> I am scarce known at t board yr  
 Lordship is such an Ornament to (ye in  
 an affair concerning or job w<sup>t</sup> ~~excess~~  
 exaggerat<sup>ion</sup> not only / Trade o London,  
 Bristol & Liverpool but prosperity & wel-  
 fare o his Majesty's West India's depends)  
 cannot on yr Lordships mo<sup>n</sup> meet or than  
 Speedy dispatch. From this Remonstrance a  
 earnest applicat<sup>ion</sup> I hope it will not appear to  
 yr Lordship or / most supercilious [but]  
 person t I h a private fortune to make  
 or any turns to serve Iniquitous. Indeed  
 my Lord, I pride myself in actg upon /  
 Square & Considerg / advantage o my  
 fellow Britons & Constituents prior to my  
 own Emolum<sup>nt</sup>. An Instance may rather seem  
 ambitious, however I will run / Risk w yr  
 Lordship. Vixt A French ship Anchored  
 yest<sup>r</sup> y f water. The Cap<sup>n</sup> came on  
 shore & v<sup>y</sup> pressingly desired to put his  
 Cargo (a ~~choice~~ Choice Assort<sup>ment</sup>) into  
 trade w us wh cost £1000 in France, & to  
 wait our own time to Slave him off. The  
 profits o this Affair wh wd h b<sup>e</sup> above  
 £1000 each in our pockets. But I declined  
 it not for any orders ag<sup>st</sup> such a thing

but Antipathy to Commerce w<sup>t</sup> w<sup>m</sup>. I sh<sup>d</sup> request  
myself fm / decriate & rejoice to continue /  
90] & futurity there was a time when / Publick  
Subsidy was expended in Retriving Trade fm  
a wretched Consumptive decline, Suppress<sup>ing</sup>  
Suppress<sup>ing</sup> Competitors in defice o British privilege  
& Support o / Forts in Africa to / Benefit o  
w<sup>t</sup> private trader of most Minute Class

As there are a Number o Idle fellows on  
this Coast & w<sup>t</sup> run away daily fm Mer-  
chants ships w<sup>t</sup> Boats &c. And also Pirates, one  
o wh<sup>m</sup> I took off Cape Palma on my Voyage here  
(to wit) / Antelope o Bristol. / Crew o whom are  
wh<sup>m</sup> are sent home by / Surprize tog<sup>th</sup> w<sup>t</sup> my  
Journal papers & examiners relaty there-  
unto I wd recommend to / Indolence o /  
Commanders fm / Admiralty sent on this Sta<sup>tion</sup>  
in a Comis<sup>ion</sup> to try such Persons at Cape Coast  
80] Castle to prevent / delay expence & trouble  
attend<sup>ing</sup> / sendg them to England.

I<sup>r</sup> Lordships Most  
Faithfully devoted  
Humble Ser<sup>vt</sup>.

John Roberts.

T. 70. 1476 [continued]

35] Africa, Cape Coast Castle 15<sup>th</sup> May 1750.

To / Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Vaughan Esq<sup>r</sup>

I did myself / Honour to write y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> o<sup>r</sup> March  
p2 / Dolphin. Since I am honoured w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Respected  
favours 14<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> last by Mr  
Theophilus Samuel who is well . . .

[Already copied, Red note book p 287]

[Note on referenced - the lengthy Extract  
in Fisher pp 64-65 - about / DICKSON  
Palaver seems sufficient. The rest o  
this long letter has therefore not  
been copied.]

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End o T. 70. 1476.

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\* Europe by Speedwell Cap<sup>t</sup> Bellamy who we  
hope to dispatch 20<sup>th</sup> [?] so pray  
sign & forward them w<sup>th</sup> all convenient speed  
We are.

---

T. 40. 68

To / Gent<sup>s</sup> Command<sup>s</sup> / Royal African Cos Forts to  
Windward & leeward "CCC." 6<sup>th</sup> Feby 1749 [50]

Yest<sup>y</sup> came to an anchor in this Road / Ship Speed-  
well. Joseph Bellamy Master for London w<sup>th</sup> Goods,  
provisions & Castle Stores for / Support of Cos Forts &  
Settlements & / British Trade to Africa & in / sd ship  
Mr J. R. (who signs this) & is appointed by our  
Constituents, / Royal African Co of England, Presi-  
dent of / Council Treasurer & Chief Agent for  
transact<sup>g</sup> our Affairs on / South Coast of Africa  
in Conjun<sup>n</sup> w<sup>th</sup> us & ye are hereby to take notice  
t<sup>h</sup> in respect to / Powers sd Gentleman has produced  
Richard Stockwell Esq<sup>r</sup> has resigned up / Comand  
of this Fort to him, in consequence of w<sup>ch</sup> Mrs  
Stockwell has not anything but to do w<sup>th</sup> any trans-  
actions relat<sup>g</sup> to / Comps Affairs. We desire on Receipt  
of this t<sup>h</sup> ye take Inventory of all / Comps effects in  
y<sup>r</sup> Charge & lists of the European Servants, Mu-  
laters & Castle Slaves w<sup>th</sup> an Acc<sup>t</sup> of what is due  
to / Natives & them & an Acc<sup>t</sup> of anything t<sup>h</sup> may  
be due to / Natives w<sup>ch</sup> for arrears of Ground  
Rent or otherwise Contracted, provided it was a  
necessary Expens<sup>e</sup> for / Support & Preservation of  
British Power & Jurisdiction in Africa, & send /  
most Authentic Vouchers of them y<sup>e</sup> can procure,  
to prove / Validity of them. In w<sup>ch</sup> we recommend  
to y<sup>e</sup> to be exact & part<sup>r</sup>. as y<sup>e</sup> will be obliged  
to prove y<sup>r</sup> own Debt upon Oath before y<sup>e</sup> are  
paid. And send us an Acc<sup>t</sup> of present State &  
Condit<sup>n</sup> of y<sup>r</sup> Fort & / number of Guns mounted throu-  
g<sup>h</sup> / Weight w<sup>th</sup> of Mettle of each, as such Informans  
are v<sup>y</sup> material w<sup>th</sup> respect to / pres<sup>t</sup>. Situat<sup>n</sup> of /  
Comps Affairs, sd Acts are designed for.

Publick letter to / Dutch Gen on Mrs  
Robert's Arrival . [ N D I ]

[ taken by Messrs "S" / Secretary w "AB" ]

Letter to / Commanders o French Ships Trade  
as per Mrs Clifton's letter .

ccc. 22<sup>d</sup> Feby [ 50 ]

[ Enc to letter to Clifton in Green n bk I 40 ]

Sir We are Surprised to find by a letter recd from  
/ Royal African Comp<sup>s</sup> Factor at Annamaboa y shd  
presume to Anchor betw Cape Apollonia & / River  
Volta. Y cannot be insensible all / Trade o E Part o  
/ Coast is / undoubted Right & Property o / Royal  
Africa Co o England & / Subjects thereof, where  
they have Forts or Settlements, & in a more part  
manner / Fantin Country where y are at Anchor;  
/ Brasser (or dicit Paramour) o ~~it~~ do beg a Serv<sup>t</sup>  
o / sd Co & receives a considerable Annual Allow<sup>ce</sup>  
wh gives them an undoubted Right to / Trade  
thereof, Y may be assur'd if y do not immedi-  
ately Weigh Anchor w<sup>ch</sup> sh take Measures to pre-  
vent yr Trade on this Side / Volta River Volta, as  
we are determin'd to Protect & Support his Majesty's  
Subjects in the Trade to / Gold Coast. We sh also  
make proper Represent<sup>ns</sup> o yr Infringem<sup>ts</sup> on /  
British Property & Jurisdic<sup>on</sup>, to our Constituents who  
will take Care to represent / Same to / Legislature o  
Gt Britain. We insist y will immediately Weigh &  
proceed on yr Voyage, / Consequ<sup>t</sup> t attends yr longer  
Stay will be yr own Seeking. Upon a necessity o  
Water or Provis<sup>ns</sup>, it is a truth well experienced by /  
Commanders in / French Trade, t a proper Supply

is always to be had upon Application to / Principals o  
Cape Coast Castle who are always ready to Con-  
tribute the Assistance o such Sort & partly at this  
Juncture as thrs is so good & firm an Alliance betwixt our  
Royal Masters o / Crown o France. We are  
J R. W H. T B.

To Mr Clifton

19<sup>th</sup> March 50<sup>th</sup>

Herewith is a letter to / English Captains at  
Annamaboa wh<sup>ch</sup> I are to send off to Captm Rolis.  
o / Polly as soon as possible, / purpose is / Courtesy  
o a Remonstrance for them relaty to / French Ships at  
Annamaboa. I are to be vry pressy w<sup>th</sup> John  
Currenzie to prevent / Natives Trade w<sup>th</sup> you  
Repeat to him / Reward offer'd o Oz<sup>s</sup> 2 each  
man & Oz<sup>s</sup> 4 each boat if his people will panyare  
I may also instance to him / gr Curlicies & Care  
taken o his Son by / English. In short, use yr  
utmost Endeavour w<sup>th</sup> John to engage him zeal-  
ously to prevent Traffick w<sup>th</sup> / Frenchman, & be  
as Assistg as y<sup>e</sup> can to / English Captains if they  
want anyting in the Ys Power to contribute to  
the driving him off / Coast

On Board / Kings ship / Content in Annamaboa  
Road 9<sup>th</sup> o February 1751

Vide copy in Admiralty notibk ①. Enc: to  
Capt Bairds letter where / ship is called Complaint

In Cape Coast Castle January 30 1751 O.S.

Yr Remonstrance of 19<sup>th</sup> (sec) of February N.S. 9 h /  
honorably received by / hands of / Marquis o Bretteville  
in wh. I take Notice t<sup>y</sup> are pleas'd to acquaint  
us t<sup>h</sup> his Majesty o France h<sup>e</sup> Commission'd y  
o / two Ships under yr Command to Protect /  
Trade o his Subjects Such as they are in Posses<sup>n</sup>  
o upon / Coast o Guinea out o / reach o / Guns o  
/ Forts belongg to European Powers.

I must first acquaint y<sup>e</sup> Sr<sup>t</sup> Town Governour  
John Roberts Esqr & one o our Council Thomas  
Boteler Esqr are both at present absent & gone  
up to Succoedee where Affairs o Consequence at  
present call them. But as in the absence /  
Command o this Castle devolves upon me durg  
/ same, so I by myself answer Yr Remon-  
strance, wh. however, will be confirm'd  
at / Arrivall o / sd John Roberts Esqr  
Governour, & Thomas Boteler Esqr one o / Chief  
Agents & Councillors & myself.

Be therefore pleas'd to understand. G<sup>t</sup>  
t<sup>h</sup> / British Subjects h<sup>e</sup> always had & main-  
tain'd / undoubted Right & Sovereignty to /  
Road & Town o Annamaboe & all / o<sup>r</sup> Towns  
& Settlements o / Fanteen Country Witness / Seal  
Forts Castles & Factory houses w<sup>h</sup> erected in /  
territories, thereof witness / English Colours y<sup>e</sup>  
see fly<sup>g</sup> ev<sup>ry</sup> day at Annamaboe & some o /  
o<sup>r</sup> principle Towns o t<sup>h</sup> Country hoisted & maintain'd  
thr at a considerable expens<sup>e</sup> f<sup>r</sup> to declare / same.  
Witness also / Will & inclin<sup>n</sup> o / Inhabitants  
themselves wh<sup>o</sup> h<sup>e</sup> received the Annual Customs

4 or Payments of / same of more than these hundred  
years past, & furthermore, Sir, be pleased to understand  
that / French Nation are a people made considerable  
by these Privileges & grants Presents, & or things which  
they h. of a time out o mind received from /  
English & only in Consideration granted to us hold  
/ Sovereignty o t Country to / English Nation of ever,  
& therefore, Sir, we look upon / Intrusion o / French  
merchants Ships now coming here to reap / Fruits  
o our Labour as an Intrusion upon our Sovereignty  
& Infringement upon our Privileges & the attempt to  
carry on a Counterband Trade w our Subjects agst  
our Will & Consent as an Infrachment upon / Trade o  
our British Subjects.

And as our Business in these remote  
parts o / Globe & our Command o these Forts &  
Castles belonging to / English Nation is chiefly to  
protect / Rights & Privileges o / British Subjects  
as well as to promote the Trade, so are we  
indispensably bound in Duty to our King &  
Country to take such methods to do / same as  
Time & Occasion shd h put in our Power.

This beg them / Situation o / Affairs o wh if  
we be pleased to say you terminate we are o  
Opinion that we are / People injured we are those who h  
reason to complain & if we h as yet Deposits set forth  
armed / Merchantmen to protect these Rights &c  
we were then only do our duty & not more than  
beg merely / Defendants agst / Infringers, & those  
who say we h by those armed Vessels &c drove them  
out o our Roads, by so saying own themselves / Traders  
& first promoters o those armed Vessels & therefore  
they h no right to complain o them

As to / Affairs of mention beg transacted  
to Windward at / River Sources agst one o yr  
French Barks we can say no more than it is an

6  
Affair wh has not yet passed under our Cognizance nor  
h we heard anything more o it than what y are pleased  
to inform us & therefore can make no part<sup>r</sup> Answer.

We hope after what we h sd y will not en-  
deavour to protect / French merchant Ships in the  
intrusion upon our Coast, but to confine yr Protec<sup>n</sup>  
to such part<sup>s</sup> of French Trade as you are in Poss<sup>n</sup>  
Possess<sup>n</sup> o. I will not we hope countenance yr  
Subjects to Carry on a Country Band Trade w Yours  
nor will y, we are persuaded, wonder if we h  
always & undecouraged to keep / French Merchant men  
clear o any o those Roads in / British Country  
since this is really / Birth o / Case, This we are  
able to convince y of whent<sup>r</sup> ym please

I h no more to add but to assure y t I am  
For J. R Espe, Gov<sup>r</sup> Myself & Thomas ~~Richard~~  
Boteler Esq<sup>r</sup> w perfect Esteem Er Your vy H. . . [27]

(Signed) W. H.  
To / Hon<sup>le</sup> Chevalier de Glaxdewes  
O / two French men o War  
In Annamaboe Road

We / Officers Doctors & Seamen o / Ship de Cert<sup>e</sup> o  
Nantz belongg to Messrs Grouin & Michel  
Certify t on / 6th o June one thousand seven hun-  
dred & fifty, having anchored in Annamaboe Road  
w design to make our Trade th<sup>r</sup>, we found three  
Ships o Nantz in / Place, namely deux Dens Freres  
Capt Denbrough, la Riche Capt, Chaplain & l'ingle  
Capt Charles Chartery, also fifteen English  
Vessels, as well Ships o three masts as Sneaus,  
Brigantines & Sloops, who fired all day on us & /  
o<sup>r</sup> French Vessels in order to prevent our Tradg.  
The next day (7th) we all weighed in order

to get out o Gunshot o the Vessels, except of Angle,  
Capt Chartery, The same day abt two o'clock in/  
afternoon. English formed two Boats & a  
Brigantine to drive us from our Situa<sup>n</sup>, & we, knowing it  
was out o our Power to resist the Force, heaved up  
anchor & took our Course towards Hmissa. The  
English, seeing Mr Chartery did not weigh, ap-  
proached him all three & attacked him. Mr Chartery  
(w<sup>th</sup> his anchor apeak) defended himself f half an  
hour but seeing / ships worked in such manner as  
to get him betw<sup>n</sup> two fires, cut his Cable & made a  
running fight o it till five in / evening at wh<sup>ch</sup> time  
English left off firing & hauled the wind in  
order to get back to Annamaboe. All this we certify  
f Truth in / Road o St Pauls / 6<sup>th</sup> o January 1751  
(Signed) Darnes, Dosselt, Naud, & James Juist  
Certified to be a true Copy from / Original  
Glandres

In Cape Coast Castle Feb<sup>y</sup> 1 1750/1 O.S.

In answer to yr favour o 12<sup>th</sup> o this instant Feb<sup>y</sup>  
ns. wh<sup>ch</sup> I h<sup>ad</sup> this day received I am sorry to find,  
noting I h<sup>ad</sup> in my last letter set forth our Sovereignty  
& undoubted Right f / h<sup>er</sup>ten Country & to / trade  
thereof & brot f a proof thereof facts incontestable,  
& marks obvious to all mankind, & nevertheless y<sup>r</sup>  
dissain / sd Sovereignty & Queen our Right thereof w<sup>th</sup>  
any o<sup>r</sup> founda<sup>n</sup> founda<sup>n</sup> f yr so doo<sup>g</sup> them / report  
o those who perhaps m<sup>ay</sup> h<sup>ad</sup> some parts interest  
to give y<sup>r</sup> such inform<sup>n</sup> as y<sup>r</sup> h<sup>ad</sup> been pleased to  
send me.

In / last I h<sup>ad</sup> / Honour to write to y<sup>r</sup> I took  
/ Liberty to inform y<sup>r</sup> t we h<sup>ad</sup> looked upon it as  
our undoubted Right / Sovereignty o / h<sup>er</sup>ten

Country of more than these Hundred years Past.  
wh<sup>ch</sup> Sovereignty has cost / English Na<sup>ns</sup> within t<sup>e</sup>  
time immense Sums o<sup>f</sup> Money; & ever since esteeming  
it in t<sup>e</sup> right we h<sup>ave</sup> always endeavoured to protect &  
Defend / Same fm any invaders or intruders th<sup>er</sup>on.  
The french Merchant Men perhaps mt not h<sup>ave</sup> given  
us Reason before / [Year] 1737 or 1738. so forcibly  
to repulse them fm our Coast, if it is most certain  
t<sup>hat</sup> before t<sup>e</sup> time a single Canoe w<sup>ith</sup> our English flag  
hoisted in Head st<sup>ood</sup> was sufficient (they knowg<sup>e</sup>  
makg<sup>e</sup> no Doubt to our Right th<sup>er</sup>of) to induce them  
to Quit our Dominions. But ever since t<sup>e</sup> time,  
induced & protect<sup>ed</sup> by / My Man whom you h<sup>ave</sup>  
mentioned (& o<sup>ne</sup> whom y<sup>e</sup> h<sup>ave</sup> been informed was armed  
& fitted by / Co in one o<sup>f</sup> th<sup>er</sup> ships to keep / french  
fm t<sup>e</sup> Road) they h<sup>ave</sup> become more Presuming & first beg<sup>an</sup>  
taught by y<sup>e</sup>r own Countrymen how to intrude  
upon us, they h<sup>ave</sup> by little & little so grown upon  
us t<sup>hat</sup> now they pretend a Right in Common w<sup>ith</sup>  
us, t<sup>hat</sup> they h<sup>ave</sup> done nothg<sup>e</sup> to Deserve, & therefore h<sup>ave</sup>  
required g<sup>o</sup>v<sup>ern</sup> Authority & force to Repell them  
than before / Period o<sup>f</sup> time y<sup>e</sup> mention. Wherefore,  
S<sup>ir</sup> I am oblig'd to say this, it argues nothg<sup>e</sup> to  
Purpose wh<sup>ere</sup> we endeavoured to force / french fm /  
Road o<sup>f</sup> Annamaboe before or after / year 1737 or  
1738, or wh<sup>ether</sup> Hamilton was or was not in our  
Employ, wh<sup>ether</sup> or not a Treaty was made in / year  
1730 by S<sup>ieur</sup> Barb<sup>ot</sup> to settle at Annamaboe. Since  
th<sup>ere</sup> are no marks o<sup>f</sup> Possession to prove these Asser<sup>ns</sup>.  
Our Right we shew by our Possession all down /  
Coast, By our flag hoisted at Annamaboe & o<sup>th</sup>  
Parts o<sup>f</sup> fantein Country, By / Remains o<sup>f</sup> our fort<sup>s</sup>  
still in Annamaboe, wh<sup>ere</sup> we can rebuild  
wh<sup>en</sup> we please & sh<sup>ould</sup> do so wh<sup>en</sup> we see

Convenient. These are Instances, flagrant Instances o our  
Sovereignty, wh I think can bear no Dispute nor no  
Argument can be hold agst them. And as to / Will  
o / Inhabitants I believe, tho you'l find yr  
Linguist has not on a fair Interpreter, since /  
Fanteens sent me a quite diff<sup>t</sup> acct o yr Embassy  
ashore th. But as a mark o our Dominion  
over t Country & People, I will shew y (shd y  
think proper to give me / Opp<sup>y</sup> to do it) t they or  
most o / Principal Cabeheers, not only o Anna-  
maboe But / Metropolis o / Fanteen Country  
(Fanteen Murrum) sh come up here on / first  
Summons to Declare to y Informe / Power we  
have & maintain over them. This will be a  
sufficient Proof as to / Will o / Natives, & f any o<sup>r</sup>  
Satisfac<sup>n</sup> I before may require to prove our Right  
Kept up & maintained f so many years past as  
I h before mentioned I will give y such as I  
am Convinc'd deem'd sufficient, for I do not  
think / little Comterband Trade carry'd on by  
some Private Interlop<sup>r</sup> Natives w / intruders o /  
French Nam can be deem'd / Will o / Natives  
sufficient to deprive us o a gr Part o our  
Domain in these parts & so, S<sup>r</sup>, I am

With Perfect Esteem for  
John Roberts Esq<sup>r</sup> Governour  
Myself &  
Thomas Boleler Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Yr Obedient Humb. Serv<sup>t</sup>  
(Signed) W. H.

40. [Husbands to Roberts & Boteler, then  
at Succonde f / Dixcove Palace Enquiry]

Cape Coast Castle / 29<sup>th</sup> January 1750 /

Dear Gentlemen

I send this letter express by land  
to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> my Messenger is just f<sup>r</sup>om f<sup>r</sup>om  
Annamaboe is just this moment arriv'd f<sup>r</sup>om  
thence w<sup>ch</sup> Messengers deputed f<sup>r</sup>om all  
Cabocers o Annamabos, Aga, & Annishan  
& all / or Fantens to acquaint me of french-  
mens Embassy to them, wh<sup>ch</sup> was open'd yest<sup>y</sup>.  
The French Officers in form yest<sup>y</sup> went ashore  
on shore & were in form met by all /  
Cabocers o Annamaboe &c. & beg seated in  
Carrantee's House they thus began: - The King  
o France my Or [sic] our Master has sent us  
here to protect our Merchant Ships in the Trade  
upon this Coast, wh<sup>ch</sup> King has heard has b<sup>e</sup>n  
much Molested on it by / Subjects o King o  
England, under y<sup>e</sup> Pretence o Town o Anna-  
maboe as well / Res<sup>t</sup> o Fanten Country beg the  
Property, & therefore they desired to know wh<sup>ch</sup>  
it was true t<sup>h</sup> / Country o Fanten & / Town  
o Annamaboe did belong to / King o England  
or not: & also [the Master / King o France  
wanted to know if he was to send & build  
in / Fanten Country a Fort<sup>r</sup> or Castle, wh<sup>ch</sup>  
they wd consent & agree to let it be done.  
To wh<sup>ch</sup> John Carrantee viz / Behalf o himself  
& / Res<sup>t</sup> assembled made him this Answer;  
T<sup>h</sup> / Town & Country o Fanten did belong  
to / English & has done ever since more  
than they can remember. His g<sup>r</sup> g<sup>r</sup> grand  
Father, & all his family down to himself

were Servants to / English; 'Twas (sd he) / English  
made our Town Considerable as it is, & I myself  
h<sup>ve</sup> b<sup>een</sup> Protected & bro<sup>ught</sup> up by / English fm my  
infancy to this Time t<sup>o</sup> see me an old Man,  
& therefore they will continue th<sup>ere</sup> Allegiance to  
th<sup>ose</sup> Old Masters & not serve any o<sup>ther</sup>; / French  
King had no Right to ask any such Ques<sup>tion</sup> o<sup>f</sup> them  
to go & as to / Drives o<sup>f</sup> / French Ships off or  
Buildg a Fort at Annamaboe, if they intended any  
such thg they must first send a Letter to / King  
o<sup>f</sup> England, & if he consented to give up his  
Right to / Fantem Country to / French King &  
granted him Perm<sup>ission</sup> to build in Annamaboe,  
then / King o<sup>f</sup> England sh<sup>d</sup> write a Letter to the  
Gentlemen o<sup>f</sup> Cape Coast Castle, & they signify<sup>ng</sup>  
to us t<sup>hat</sup> it was / English King's Desire, then we  
may hearken to what y<sup>e</sup> h<sup>ave</sup> to say upon t<sup>he</sup> Subject,  
But f<sup>or</sup> / Present we know y<sup>e</sup> not. After this he  
gave them a gentle Dinner & sent them off.

All wh<sup>ile</sup> / French Officers put down in writg  
& carried on Board, they first told John t<sup>hat</sup> they wd  
stay in Annamaboe till they were relieved by two  
o<sup>r</sup> / French Ships o<sup>f</sup> War to protect th<sup>ere</sup> Trade, Ay<sup>e</sup>  
(sd John) t<sup>hat</sup> it is only on Con<sup>dition</sup> our Master / King  
o<sup>f</sup> England don't hear o<sup>f</sup> yr beg here & send o<sup>ut</sup>  
to drive y<sup>e</sup> out. They were not at all Satisfied, y<sup>e</sup>  
may be Sure, w<sup>ith</sup> th<sup>ere</sup> Success on Shore; But you<sup>ll</sup>  
find / Fantem's determined to stand close to th<sup>ere</sup>  
old Interest.

Pray excuse / manner I h<sup>ave</sup> expressed myself in /  
Relat<sup>ion</sup> above, I mean as to / Style & I h<sup>ave</sup> only  
endeavour'd to stick as near to / Truth o<sup>f</sup> message as  
/ Diffe<sup>rence</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Language will admit

T. 40. 1516 [Detached Papers. 1750]

[also so Enclosed]

State & Condition of Forts upon Coast of Africa as  
Surveyed by Order of Thomas Pye Esq<sup>r</sup> Commander of  
his Majesty's Ship Humbert in 1749 & 1749/50  
James Fort Gambia Oct<sup>r</sup> 19. 1749

Duxone Fort Jan<sup>y</sup> 11. 1749/50

The Tower if not immediately rebuilt will fall  
down.

The N.E., N.W. & S.E. Bastions v<sup>y</sup> much out of  
Repair. Two S.W. Bastions almost demolished; / End  
of Spur next these Bastions, not finished - all /  
Body of Fort wants rebuilding, it beg<sup>s</sup> dangerous at  
Present to make use of the Cannon, wh<sup>ch</sup> are in  
v<sup>y</sup> bad Repair as are likewise the Carriages

N.B. Value £106 put in / Year 1749 at sundry  
Times by Messrs ~~Stokewell~~ & Co - No  
Supply for / Royal African Co these 5 years

Succondee Fort, Jan<sup>y</sup> 13 1749/50

The Fort in gen is v<sup>y</sup> badly built, & what Re-  
pairs are made are performed in a v<sup>y</sup> indift<sup>r</sup> Man-  
ner, of want of Bricklayers & Masons to in-  
struct / Natives. This Fort is in tolerable Repair  
& wants mostly pointing & a new Coat of Fa<sup>ce</sup>  
Terrace - Woods to / Value of £23 damaged - b<sup>y</sup>  
/ Royal African Co & not any since - To / amt<sup>t</sup>.  
of £200 by Stokewell & Co in / Beginning of 1749

Commenda Fort Jan<sup>y</sup> 15. 1749/50

The Towers & 4 Bastions abo<sup>t</sup> 33 Feet high  
in / middle of Fort in tolerable Repair - In / S. E.  
Curtain, a g<sup>t</sup> Breach. The East & South Bastions  
almost in Ruins. The Curtain of these two Bastions  
must be rebuilt - The o<sup>r</sup> two Bastions & Curtain

4.  
in tolerable Repair. This Fort wants g<sup>t</sup> Repairs,  
partly / East & South Bastions & / Curtains -  
Goods to / Value o £5.10 by Cape Coast Castle, but  
not within these 5 years - To / Value o £100 by  
Messrs Stockwell & Co in / year 1749.

As to Cape Coast Castle, nothing is sd, only E / South  
Side is open to / Sea, & defenceless f<sup>r</sup> want o a Platform

Tantum quarry Fort Jan<sup>r</sup> 19 1749/50

The Fort in gen is in good Repair - Goods in  
Trade to / Value o £500 in / Beginning o / year 1749 -  
No Goods received fr / Royal African Co these 5 years

Winnebaah Fort Feb<sup>r</sup> 17 1749/50

The Castle is in tolerable Repair, but / Guns &  
Carriages hardly fit f<sup>r</sup> Use. All / Floorg intirely de-  
cayed & Rotten - Goods to / Value o £400 in / Be-  
ginn<sup>g</sup> o 1749, by Messrs Stockwell & Co. None fr /  
Royal African Co these 5 Years

Accora Fort Feb<sup>r</sup> 20 1749/50

The Guns & Carriages exceedg bad: the Fort much  
out o Repair, beg badly executed & of irregular -  
Goods in Trade to / Value o £200 mostly damaged,  
by / Royal African Co 5 years past. - To / Value o  
£200 by Messrs Stockwell & Co in / Beginn<sup>g</sup> o / year 1749

Whydah Fort, Feb<sup>r</sup> 27 1749/50

.....

Enclosed "Royal African Comp  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 24. 1750  
no 24.

To/ Committee of Co<sup>o</sup> Merchants Trade to Africa

African House

Gentlemen

Jan. 24. 1750

The Court o<sup>r</sup> Assistants o<sup>f</sup> this Co<sup>o</sup> had<sup>g</sup> me  
this day, f<sup>r</sup> / first time, after the Elec<sup>n</sup> /<sup>r</sup> letter to  
them o<sup>f</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> Instant, was read: And they b<sup>e</sup> there  
upon, ordered me to send f<sup>r</sup>, inclosed herewith / dist<sup>o</sup>  
o<sup>f</sup> Goods, & Tools & Provisions, as are necessary to be sent  
on<sup>t</sup> f<sup>r</sup> / Support<sup>t</sup> o<sup>f</sup> James Fort Gambia & its Depend<sup>ts</sup> [n. c.]  
Also / dist<sup>o</sup> / desired o<sup>f</sup> Persons in / Co<sup>o</sup>'s Service, at  
the Seal Forts & Settlements, in Africa, w<sup>th</sup> the Sta<sup>nd</sup>  
Salaries & Diet m<sup>o</sup>ney; drawn on<sup>t</sup> in / best  
Manner, t<sup>o</sup> the last Ac<sup>t</sup>s, received f<sup>r</sup> Africa, w<sup>o</sup>  
admit; / last Chief Agents sent out to Cape Coast,  
havg not sent home dist<sup>o</sup> o<sup>f</sup> all / Living & Dead,  
since the Arrival ther, as has b<sup>e</sup> usually done

They b<sup>e</sup> likewise ordered me, f<sup>r</sup> yr<sup>e</sup> full Informa<sup>n</sup>  
to send y<sup>e</sup> / inclosed Copy o<sup>f</sup> an Establishment wh<sup>o</sup>  
b<sup>e</sup> laid before / Parliament as what may be neces-  
sary effectually to maintain & Support<sup>t</sup> all the  
Forts & Settlements, in Africa, I am

Gentlemen

Your most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>.

[signed] R. Spence

Sec<sup>y</sup>

6. Indorsed 24<sup>th</sup> January 1750  
 List of Persons in / Comp Service with  
 their Salaries & Diet Monys

African House Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 1750  
 A List of Persons in / Co's Service at the sev<sup>l</sup> Forts  
 & Settlements in Africa, w<sup>th</sup> their sev<sup>l</sup> St<sup>es</sup> Salaries  
 & Diet Mony allowed them by / Royal African  
 Co of England

Persons Names	Qualities	Pay / per Ann.	
		£	s d
Cape Coast Castle			
Richard Stokwell	Governor / in B. John Roberts in his Room	300	0.
William Husbands	Warehouse Keeper	300	0.
Thomas Boteler	Accountant	500	-
John Sleyer	Secretary	100	-
Charles Whitaker	Factor	80	-
John Mores		80	-
Daniel Davis	Writers	60	-
Thomas Goodwin		60	-
Thomas Knight		60	-
John Meredith		80	-
Richard Brews	Register	63	-
Lewis Griffith	Assistant	40	-
Table money		500	-
John Hippisley	Surgeon	100	-
John Clifton	Water-side Bombay & Overseer of Coopers	80	-
James Hinch	Castle Bom boy	50	-
Richard Glover	Superannuated	50	-
John Jones	Master of Schooner Lively	50	-
Joseph Vonderplatt	Surgeon's Mate	60	-
Mathew Young	Butler	36	-
John Henry De Francklyn	Lieutenant	80	-
Daniel Lamb	Ensigns	60	-
Hans Fred <sup>k</sup> Moyer		60	-
David Bertie	Corporals	36	-
Nicholas Hearle		36	-
John Little	Drummer	24	-
John Legendre	Soldiers	24	-
John Saunders		24	-
Dennis Carter		24	-
David Richards		24	-

Persons Names	Qualities	Pay per Ann
Hermonius Somering		27
John Smiegen		27
Edward Weedon		27
James Cooper		27
Lawrence Wilson		27
John Mackdonald		27
	Carried over	3198
	Brook out	3198
Samuel Webster	} Soldiers	27
John Reynolds		27
Abraham Cross		27
Anthony Abrams		27
John Sleepe		27
Hendrick Reynolds		27
Hendrick Petersen		27
Peter Gwyce	Blind on half pay	13 10
Gudjeo Cabboeer	Linguist	42
George Bonishee	messenger	48
Effinee	warehousekeepers	27
Chafey	Servant	18
Gudjeo	} Black Sailors	18
Triton		18
Appoherry		18
Bonetta		18
Duminoe		18
Quashce Addadoc		18
Reading Divine Service		12
		<u>3685.10</u>

Persons names	Qualities	Pay per Ann	
		£	s
<b>At Duxco</b>			
Nassau Senior	Chief	100	.
Richard Mumt	Serjeant	36	.
William Wilson	Sandys Bombay	36	.
William Christian	Mulatta Soldier	27	.
Quamina	Black Gunner	12	.
Accah	Caboccer	12	.
Bosque	Caboccer	12	.
Ausishee	o Bushaw Tradymen	6	.
Coffee	Cook	6	.
Tattoo	Gold taker	6	.
Quacco	Cook	4	10
		<u>257</u>	<u>10</u>

**Succondee**

Robert Livingstone	Chief	80	.
Henry Riffe	Serjeant	36	.
Francis Maronius	} Mulatto Soldiers	27	.
Richard Young		27	.
John Wright	Black Soldier	27	.
Baddoo	Caboccer	12	.
Yanties	Linguist	12	.
A Heyan	Free Cook	6	.
		<u>227</u>	

Persons Names                      Qualities                      Pay per Ann.

Commenda

Andrew Johnson	Chief	100
James Hawley	Serjeant	36
John Williams	Gunner	36
John Reynolds	} Mulatto Soldiers	24
Peter Gordon		24
John Hendrick		24
Abraham Timberhuck		24
John Corz am		24
Agency	Caboccer	12
Pilo	Trad <sup>r</sup> man	12
John Cabess	Gold taker	6
Cudjeg	Bombay	6
Mumfroy	Canneman	6
		<u>349</u>

Tantum Queroy.

George Mackenzie	Chief	100
Thomas Smith	Serjeant	36
William Ugly	Mulatto Soldier	12
Apracoo	Black Soldier	13 10
Qleow	Petty Linguist	12
Assim	Waterside Bombay	12
		<u>185 10</u>

Winnabah

William Withers	Chief	100
Peter Falcongreen	Serjeant	36
John Reynolds	} Mulatto Soldiers	24
John Brown		24
John Bromley		24
Ancha		6
Comfree		6
		<u>229</u>



Endorsed

" Old African Company's  
Establishment of the Forts  
upon / Coast of Africa  
as delivered to / Committee  
Jan<sup>ry</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1750 "

[Note. This Petition is identified w/ one  
supra.]

Endorsed

' Royal African Company  
2 Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1750  
no 25 "

to / Committee of Co of Merchants Trading  
to Africa

Gentlemen

African House  
Feb. 2. 1750

We have read yr Letter to us of 30<sup>th</sup>  
January last, w/ <sup>which</sup> inclosed a People, of which  
necessary to be sent to Cape Coast & Gambia &  
having this day discussed & discoursed w/ Mr  
Melville, We desire / favour of a Conference w/ y  
as soon as possible, at such time & place as  
may be agreeable to y.

We are fur<sup>r</sup> to acquaint y that We have ap-  
pointed Mr Melville of Cape Coast Castle  
accordg to / Tenor of our Letter to y of  
20<sup>th</sup> December last

By Order of Court & Assistants  
of / Royal African Co of  
England (sd) R Spence Sec<sup>ry</sup>

Endorsed "Letter fm / Royal African Company  
 Feby 19<sup>th</sup> 1750  
 No 26"

To / Committee o / Co o Merchants Tradg  
 To Africa.

Gentlemen We believe t / will do us / Justice to  
 say We h hitherto, concurred in everythg y h desired  
 o us to dispatch & facilitate / sendg on / £10,000  
 granted by Parliam<sup>nt</sup> / last Session f / Support o /  
 Forts & Settlements belongg to this Co. But sear  
 letters relatg to / present Circumstances o / Co's Affairs in  
 Africa, beg now before / House o Commons (o wh<sup>ch</sup> y  
 no doubt h Copies) We h found it necessary to re-  
 view our Proceedgs, & think it incumbent upon us  
 to offer to y<sup>r</sup> Considera<sup>n</sup> what has occurred & we  
 apprehend to be fut necessary f / due applica<sup>n</sup> o  
 / Publick m<sup>o</sup>ny & / preserva<sup>n</sup> o / Trade.

Upon / Parliam<sup>nt</sup> grantg / Sessions before  
 last £10000, wh / Lords o / Treasury cho<sup>se</sup> fit to  
 intrust Mr Henry Lascelles w / Disposi<sup>n</sup> o; Proper  
 Officers were named & recommended to / Co by  
 Mr Lascelles & upon th<sup>is</sup> givg good & sufficient Security  
 Security, were accordgly appointed by / Co; & /  
 three Persons were Mr Roberts, Mr Husband, &  
 Mr Boteler who are now at Cape Coast, & are answer-  
 able to / Publick f t £10000 & to / Co f th<sup>is</sup> behaviour.

As / £10000 sent on<sup>t</sup> by Mr Lascelles, & /  
 £10000 granted last Session, & paid to y, were each  
 f / same purpose viz<sup>t</sup>. The Support & Maintenance

o/ Forts & Settlements, It is therefore incumbent on Mr Lascelles, & on Y, & also on this Co to take Care t/ same be duly applied; As to Mr Lascelles, t/ he may be able to pass his Accts & discharge / Security he has given, as to Y<sup>r</sup> Co, t/ they may be able to see / last £10,000 properly applied; & as to this Co, t/ while the Affairs are in / State o/ Suspence, t/ Establish<sup>mt</sup> be fully answered on<sup>o</sup> / Supplies sent over & t/ same may be applied to t/ purpose least [sic] least<sup>o</sup> new Debts sh<sup>d</sup> be incurred wh, under / present<sup>l</sup> Situa<sup>n</sup> must fall on this Co.

In this Veiw & under this Considera<sup>n</sup> we think it incumbent on Us to recommend / followg Plan f/ Gen Security, t/ Money granted sh<sup>d</sup> be duly applied; & wh Method seems necessary till this Co sh<sup>d</sup> be divested

- 1<sup>st</sup> T such part o/ Supply granted last Y<sup>r</sup> sh<sup>d</sup> be allotted to Cape Coast Castle, be consigned to Mr Thomas Melville, recommended by Y, who sh<sup>d</sup> give Security to Y & this Co f/ true & faithful Disposal & Applican<sup>o</sup> of same as hereafter mentioned
- 2<sup>d</sup> T such part o/ sd Supply as sh<sup>d</sup> be allotted f/ Gambia, be consigned to such person as sh<sup>d</sup> be agreed on, who sh<sup>d</sup> give / like Security
- 3<sup>d</sup> T this Co sh<sup>d</sup> appoint / sd Mr Thomas Melville to be one o/ the three Chief Agents & Warehousekeepers at Cape Coast Castle, & / person who sh<sup>d</sup> be agreed on f/ Gambia, to be one o/ the three Chief Agents & Warehousekeepers at James Fort in / River Gambia, they givg such Security & enterg into such Covenants as sh<sup>d</sup> be customary in / like Cases

4<sup>th</sup> That this Co sh make out new Commission<sup>ers</sup> appointing  
 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Melville to be the three Chief Agents at Cape Coast Castle & Gambia to be the three Chief Agents there until further Orders  
 1 person to sh be agreed on for Gambia to be the three Chief Agents there until further Orders

5<sup>th</sup> Upon Arrival of Agents w/ Goods Stores &c at Cape Coast Castle & Gambia, this Co's then Agents, at each of sd Places sh in Conjunction w such Agents as aforesaid, forthwith take true Inventories of all Goods, Merchandise, Stores, Castle Slaves, Carnoimen, & all o<sup>r</sup> Effects whatso<sup>ev</sup> belong<sup>ing</sup> to this Co, exclusive of what may be remaining of Goods & Merchandise &c sent on<sup>ly</sup> by Mr Lascelles.

6<sup>th</sup> That this Co's Chief Agents then at each of sd places sh immediately upon Arrival of Agents as aforesaid, make out a true & part<sup>ic</sup> Acc<sup>t</sup> of Sales, Disposal & Applic<sup>n</sup> of all such Goods & Merchandise as were Consigned by / ~~also~~ abovementioned Mr Lascelles & also of all Charges fm / day of Arrival of such Goods & Merchandise thr, to / day of Arrival of Agents as aforesaid.

7<sup>th</sup> That in case any of Goods & Merchandise sent on<sup>ly</sup> by Mr Lascelles, or of produce thereof sh then be remaining over & above / charges incurred & over & above all Arrears since Mr Roberts Arrival at Cape Coast & Mr's Atkinson at Gambia, as may be then remaining

due & unpaid / some sh be delivered over into  
/ Custody & Possession o / sd respective Agents  
now ~~go~~ go on & to be by them applied for &  
wards / Support o / respective Forts & Settlements  
as hereafter mentioned, But in case such Goods  
& Merchandise sent on by Mr Hascelles sh not be  
sufficient to defray all such Charges, & such  
deficiency sh be made good & paid out o /  
Produce o / Goods & Merchandise wh are  
now to be sent on under / Care o / sd  
respective Agents.

gth T all such Goods & Merchandise as sh now  
be sent on as well as / remains (if any)  
o / Goods & Merchandise sent on by Mr  
Hascelles at Cape Coast & Gambia sh be lodged  
under / Care o / respective Warehousekeepers re-  
commended by /; But t / sd Goods & Merchandise  
sh be sold disposed o & applied towards /  
Maintenance & Support o / sd respective Forts & Settle-  
ments in such manner & ways only as / sd three  
Chief Agents or any two o them (whereof / Ware-  
housekeeper of each respective place to be one) sh  
from time to time agree upon, & not otherwise.

gth T all Goods wh sh be taken in / way o  
Barter for any o / sd Goods & Merchandise  
sh be kept in an Iron Chest under three Locks &  
Keys whereof each o / sd Agents to keep one;  
& t all Payments & Disbursements in Gold or  
otherwise be made pursuant to / Order & Direc<sup>n</sup> o /  
sd three Agents Chief Agents & / Major part o  
them whereof / sd Warehousekeeper to be one &  
not otherwise

10<sup>th</sup> I may (if y<sup>e</sup> see fit) Appoint an Assis-  
tant Warehouse Keeper at each place to  
succeed in t<sup>e</sup> Office in case o<sup>f</sup> Death or either o<sup>f</sup>  
Warehouse Keepers to be now appointed But to  
h<sup>ave</sup> no Power in / meantime before such Vacancy or  
Vacancies sh<sup>ould</sup> happen

11<sup>th</sup> I in case any Diff<sup>erence</sup> sh<sup>ould</sup> arise betw<sup>een</sup> /  
sd three Agents, It be left to / Captain o<sup>f</sup>  
/ First Man o<sup>f</sup> War t<sup>hat</sup> sh<sup>ould</sup> come upon / Coast to  
Settle & make up / same.

As one o<sup>f</sup> our most dangerous Rivalts is  
now labouring to supplant / British In-  
terest in one o<sup>f</sup> / most essential Branches o<sup>f</sup>  
African Trade, by usg the utmost Efforts to  
obtain a Settlement at Annamaboë in / s<sup>outh</sup>  
Center o<sup>f</sup> / Gold Coast We apprehend t<sup>hat</sup> nothing  
(next to a proper Force at Sea) can under /  
present Unfortunate Circumstances o<sup>f</sup> Trade  
more effectually contribute to render such  
dangerous Schemes abortive than Harmony  
& Unanimity am<sup>ong</sup> / Officers & Servants settled  
& appointed to be on / Coast & as it appears from  
5) / Letters transmitted by Captain Pye to /  
Lords o<sup>f</sup> Admiralty t<sup>hat</sup> q<sup>u</sup>o<sup>o</sup> inconveniencies yer<sup>e</sup> like to  
arise & may still grow worse by / frequent  
appointm<sup>ents</sup> appointing o<sup>f</sup> New Governors the  
We cannot but be o<sup>f</sup> Opinion t<sup>hat</sup> until such time  
as / Parliament sh<sup>ould</sup> be pleased to put /  
finis<sup>hing</sup> hand to this Affairs / Order & Regu-  
lars herein before mentioned may be necess-  
ary & conducive to / Ends desired & do

Journal of Com<sup>rs</sup> of Trade & Planta<sup>ns</sup>

Jan. 1749-50<sup>fm</sup> to Dec 1753.

[Hm St<sup>y</sup> office 1932]

therefore propose them, to y<sup>r</sup> Considera<sup>n</sup>, & y<sup>r</sup>  
Concurrence, & if y<sup>e</sup> h any Doubts or Difficulties  
concerning / Same, will v<sup>y</sup> readily submit /  
whole to / immediate Determina<sup>n</sup> of Rt <sup>Honble</sup> /  
Honble / Lords Commissioners of Trade & Planta<sup>ns</sup>  
& will attend t<sup>e</sup> Honble Board w<sup>th</sup> /  
Subject matter thereof, & We may act in  
Concert w<sup>th</sup> an Affairs of such q<sup>ty</sup> Consequence to /  
Trade of this Kingdom, We are

African House  
Feb. 19. 1750.

Gentlemen  
y<sup>r</sup> most humble Servants

The Court of Assistants of  
Royal African Company of England

Signed by order of sd Court

R Spence Sec<sup>y</sup> [orig sign]

Endorsed

Letter from / Royal  
African Company dated  
14<sup>th</sup> March 1750 /

[NB  
1751]

No 31.

To / Committee of / Co of Merchants trading to  
Africa

African House  
March 14. 1750

Gentlemen

We think it proper to acquaint y<sup>e</sup>,  
t<sup>e</sup> We h appointed / persons hereunder  
written in / Sta<sup>ns</sup> as mentioned ag<sup>st</sup> the

respective Names in our Service of Cape Coast  
Castle viz<sup>t</sup>

Thomas Melvil one o our Chief Agents  
Treasurer & President o / Council,  
& Warehousekeeper f / Goods &  
Stores to be sent out by y to Africa

Richard Stockwell one o our Chief Agents  
& Warehousekeeper

John Roberts one o our Chief Agents  
& Accountant

John Stonehewer  
Carrigue Leusin  
William Tymmeswell

John Aird

John Emerston

Ascanius Senor's

James Wickliffe

Mathew MacKaile

James Perrott

} Factors

Chief Surgeon

Surgeon's Mate

And we sh proceed to give them / necessary  
Dispatch in prepar<sup>g</sup> & deliver<sup>g</sup> thr Com<sup>mands</sup>  
& Instr<sup>ments</sup>

By Order o Court o Assistants  
o / Royal African Company  
o England

R. Spence

Sec<sup>ry</sup>

- [note / number o this letter - no 16 u. comes first in this series o letters]

Endorsed

"Letter dated / 29<sup>th</sup> August recd 6<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> for ye Royal African Company wa list o People at Gambia 1750 + Cape Coast 1746  
no 16."

To / Committee o / Co o Merchants Trade to Africa

African House

Gentlemen

August 29. 1750 [1750] [1750]  
We h received yr letter dated / 15<sup>th</sup> instanc<sup>t</sup>; & h in Answer to yr Question as to / State o this Coy Forts & Settlements inclosed herewith an Acc<sup>t</sup> o / number o White Men ab / Sevr Forts on / Gold Coast & at Gambia accordg to / last Advices & are to acquaint<sup>y</sup> t / Co will be ready when They know to whom / Ten thousand pounds granted by Parliam<sup>t</sup> / last Ses<sup>n</sup>, is paid, to give them proper Informan<sup>t</sup> f / Investm<sup>t</sup> thereof. We are fur Advised t / French h resettled themselves at Akreda in / Rivers Gambia - - -

In regard to / d<sup>r</sup> Ques<sup>n</sup> in yr sd letter; We beg leave to recommend it to / to consider t / direct Inten<sup>n</sup> o t Part<sup>r</sup> o / Act o Parliam<sup>t</sup> o wh<sup>ch</sup> y have inserted an Extract, is expressly, t this Co shd not be divested o any Part o th<sup>r</sup> Property or Powers. They are at present possessed o, until such time as / Parliam<sup>t</sup> sh pass a Bill f t purpose And therefore as Trustees f / Proprietors & / Creditors o / Co, & in Justice to Them, it will be proper & incumbent on us to take / benefit o t part o / sd Act until such fut Act f divestg / Co o th<sup>r</sup> sd property sh be passed

We must fur acquaint<sup>y</sup> t We sh always give such Direc<sup>ns</sup> as are necessary f / Supportg & preservg this Coy Forts & Settlements f /

Protect<sup>n</sup> & Benefit o/ British Trade on/ Coast o  
Africa

By Order o/ Court o Assistants  
o/ Royal African Company o  
England R Spence Sec<sup>ry</sup>

[Enclosure attached to above]

An Acct o/ white Men living / Service  
o/ R - A - C - o England on / Gold  
Coast o Africa accordg to / List  
recd from Cape Coast Castle dated April 30 1746

	Number o Persons
At Cape Coast Castle	55
Dixcove	7
Succondee	6
Commenda	4
Tantum querry	8
Winnedah	9
Accra	10
Prampram	6
Whidah	3
On board / Expedition Sneau	11
	<u>122</u>
Persons living at James Fort Gambia as per List received 14 <sup>th</sup> August 1750	
At Gambia	46
	<u>168</u> White Men

Endorsed

"Copy o Minute  
Oct<sup>r</sup> 26 1750  
fm / Royal African  
Comp No 21"

African House

~~Upon~~ Copy o Minute Oct<sup>r</sup> 26 1750  
as confirmed by / Court Oct<sup>r</sup> 31 1750

Upon Conference h<sup>d</sup>; It was mutually agreed  
↑ Such Person or Persons as sh<sup>d</sup> be recommended  
by / Committee o / Co o Merchants tradg to  
Africa to / Royal African Co o England be  
accepted by / sd Royal African Co  
viz One as an Additional Chief Agent<sup>r</sup> at Cape  
Coast Castle & one as an Additional Chief Agent<sup>r</sup>  
at Gambia, & enter into / usual Securities &  
be under / usual Instructions as has b<sup>e</sup>n customary  
of such Agents to enter into & be under as  
Servants to / sd R-A-C-. Givg Security  
besides to / Committee o Merchants tradg to  
Africa for / Disposition o, & acctg for / Goods &  
Stores & they sh<sup>d</sup> be intrusted w<sup>th</sup> by / sd Com-  
mittee o Merchants for / Support<sup>r</sup> o / Forts &  
Settlements in Africa

And This upon / Conditions & Provis<sup>ns</sup> made  
in this Cos' letter sent to / sd Committee dated  
11<sup>th</sup> October 1750

Endorsed "Copy of Pet<sup>n</sup>  
of R-A-C"

To the Excellencies / Lords Justices  
The humble Pet<sup>n</sup> of / Royal  
African Company of England

Sheweth That by an Act last Session Intituled an  
Act of Extending & Improving / Trade to Africa. It  
is Enacted That / British Forts & Settlements in / Posses<sup>n</sup>  
of yr Petitioners sh<sup>d</sup> be & after / Pass<sup>n</sup> of an Act of  
Parliamt<sup>t</sup> of divesting yr Petitioners of their Charter,  
Forts, Castles & Military Stores, Cannon, Castle  
Slaves, & of their Property on / Coast of Africa, be ab-  
solutely vested in / New Co Established by / sd  
Act, w<sup>th</sup> powers to / sd New Co be & after<sup>ly</sup> pass<sup>n</sup>  
such Act of Divesting yr Petitioners, or before /  
Pass<sup>n</sup> such Act, so far as yr petitioners sh<sup>d</sup>  
consent thereto be & to time to time to make Orders  
for / Governing maintaining, preserving & Improving /  
Forts & factories & to Appoint Governors, Deputy  
Governors & of<sup>r</sup> Officers & do such of<sup>r</sup> Acts, as in /  
sd Act are more particularly mentioned

That by a Clause in an Act made & passed /  
last Session of Parliamt<sup>t</sup> a Sum not exceed<sup>g</sup> £10,000  
is directed to be issued & applied towards / Support of /  
British Forts & Settlements upon / Coast of Africa in such  
manner as his Majesty sh<sup>d</sup> think proper

That it will g<sup>o</sup>ly tend to / Security & Preserva<sup>n</sup>  
of Forts to send ~~over~~ over an immediate Supply of  
Soldiers, Artificers, Stores & Provisions, the having

lately b<sup>n</sup> an unusual Mortality on / Coast.

1 / £10000 granted last yr f / sd Forts & Castles was paid into / hands o Henry Lascelles Esq<sup>r</sup>. t he mt see / same interest & sent out in / properest manner f / use o / sd Forts & Castles. And at his request yr Petitioners appointed & sent over New Governours & Officers upon / Coast, who upon t<sup>o</sup>ccas<sup>n</sup> gave him, as well as yr Petitioners ample Security f the good behaviour & the Conduct since hath b<sup>n</sup> much approved. So t at present<sup>r</sup> there is a Sett

o Officers on / Coast, at / respective Forts, in all probability as fitt to be trusted w / Applic<sup>n</sup> o this Years Supply, as any new ones t can be got.

Yr Petitioners therefore humbly tender to yr Excellencies the Aid & Assistance intend<sup>g</sup> over this years Supplies f / Forts & Castles w<sup>r</sup> any manner o Charge o Gratuity f so dog w respect to themselves or the Officers here in England, wh<sup>r</sup> / same be put under yr Petitioners Inspection or sent over by some private hand in like manner as / same was transacted / last year.

Yr Petitioners beg leave in / most humble manner to represent to yr Excellencies t either o / Methods here proposed will be free fm / Difficulties t will most probably attend any o<sup>r</sup>, & under / Applic<sup>n</sup> o / intended Supplies more expeditious & Effectual this Year & f / purposes f wh they are granted than can as yet be done by / New Co. In regard / sd New Co can neither appoint Officers or take any Security till they ha a property in / Forts, nor can

Y<sup>r</sup> Petitioners Directors answer'd to the Con-  
stituent's or to / Creditors o / Co in deliverg up  
/ Posses<sup>n</sup> & Property o / present Co untill an  
Act o Parliamt for t<sup>e</sup> purpose shall pass, wh<sup>ch</sup>  
/ Consentg or Agreeg to / new Co's Appointm<sup>ts</sup>  
o Officers is in Effect do<sup>s</sup>.

Y<sup>r</sup> Petitioners therefore most humbly  
pray t<sup>e</sup> / sd £10,000 may be either  
issued to y<sup>r</sup> Petitioners, in such man-  
ner as to y<sup>r</sup> Excellencies sh<sup>l</sup> seem  
meet, or t<sup>e</sup> / same may be issued  
in like manner as last year.

African House. And y<sup>r</sup> Petitioners sh<sup>l</sup> ever pray &

Aug<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1750

By Order o / Court o Assistants o /  
R - A - C - o England

R. Spence

Secy.

Endorsed

"19th Septem<sup>r</sup> 1750

Copy o a minute o /  
Board o Treasury in  
Respect to / Memorials  
o / Committee o /  
Comp<sup>ts</sup> o Mercht<sup>s</sup> tradg  
to Africa & o /  
Royal African Comp<sup>y</sup>"

Whitehall Treasury Chambers 19<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1753  
Present

Mr Chancellor of Exchequer, Mr Campbell Mr Grenville

Read a Memorial fm / Committee o / African  
Trade prayg t / sum a £10000 voted / last  
Session o Parliam<sup>t</sup> wh<sup>ch</sup> has issued to them, & a  
Memorial o / Royal African Co beg also  
read, & / sd Gent. o / Committee attended, my  
Lords acquainted them, & as no Act has yet be  
passed / Legislature f divertg / Co o ~~the~~ the  
Forty & Settlements; my Lords do not think them-  
selves sufficiently authorised to issue / £10000  
to / Committee, unless / African Co sh signify  
the Consent to / same, & t as soon as such  
Consent<sup>t</sup> is signified they will b no Difficulty  
in ~~issuing~~ / issuing / same to / Committee,  
directed by Act o Parliam<sup>t</sup>

Signed by

(J West)

Enclosed

African House

Dec 8. 1750

List o Goods + Stores

Cape Coast + ~~Whidah~~Ordered

" R<sup>t</sup> Spence f / African  
Comp incl<sup>s</sup> a list o Goods  
Stores + Recruits f / Gold  
Coast + Whidah "

8 Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1750

No 22.

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

Gentlemen

In answer to yr letters o/ 28<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last & /  
4<sup>th</sup> Instant We are to acquaint y<sup>e</sup> We sh<sup>d</sup>,  
pursuant to our Minute o Conference & agreeable  
to / Recommendations in yr Letter o/ 4<sup>th</sup> Instant  
appoint Mr Thomas Melville an Additional Chief  
Agent Treasurer & Warehouse Keeper in our  
Service at Cape Coast Castle, to act jointly w<sup>th</sup> Mr  
John Roberts & Mr William Husbands; and sh<sup>d</sup>  
order, as was agreed, / usual Covenants &  
Instructions empowering him to act accordg<sup>ly</sup>

And in pursuance o/ 2<sup>d</sup> Paragraph o/ yr Letter  
o/ 28<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> We h<sup>e</sup> prepared & send inclosed  
herewith, a list o/ Indent o/ such Goods, Stores  
& Recruits as may be proper to send out f

Support of Forts & Settlements on / Gold Coast  
& at Whydah f yr Informa<sup>n</sup>

African House By order of Court of Assistants  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1750 of Royal African Company of England

R. Spence

Sec<sup>y</sup>

[Attached to / about:]

Endorsed "African House

Dec 8. 1750

List of Goods, & Stores

Cape Coast & Whydah"

African House, Dec 8. 1750

A list of such Goods, Stores & Accounts  
wh<sup>ch</sup> may be proper to be sent on f /  
Support of Forts & Settlements on / Gold  
Coast & Whydah

Goods.

- Include Tallow - Blackburn Cottons & Chells  
Linen & cotton Chelvers, Neptunes, Cushtoes  
Siletas, Nicamnees, Tapseils, Beju Tapants.  
Bofts, Negannapants, Brawls, Cotton  
Romalls, Photaes, Carry darries,  
Dysoz'Ksoyes, Collanees, Charcommaes  
Corries.

## Stores

Include Hambro Quills Ink Powder  
 Pounce Long Speaking Trumpet, Beef, Pork  
 Suet, Porter, old Hock, Cheese, Casks o  
 Medicines f C.C.C., Vitahs, Succowies & Winekoh  
 Garden seeds - 6 five fine hard-metal Candle moulds  
 H H

People wanted f Cape Coast & Whidah

- 10 Factors
  - 10 Writers
  - 1 Surgeon whosh likewise understand Physick
  - 1 Mate
  - 1 House Carpenter
  - 1 Bricklayer
  - 1 Cooper
  - 1 Armourer
  - 4 Gunners
  - 2 Gunners Mates
  - 1 Drummer
  - 25 Soldiers
- 

Endorsed "African Company  
 Draft o M<sup>tr</sup> f a Cov<sup>t</sup>  
 Servant o Age o 21"

[ not copied ]

---

Endowed

"Articles o Agreement  
between /  
English & Dutch  
Companies

Bear 9 date / 24th May 1407  
& renewed to 16th May 1412 "

[Copies only, vide copies <sup>from</sup> Dutch  
records]

Endorsed

Instructed delivered  
by / Committee to  
Charles Bell Esq  
Appointed Gov  
of "C of Castle"

[sic but incorrect vide  
ref to Includ, at end]

20

1750  
Instructed from / Committee of / Co of Merchants  
Kadg to Africa, to Charles Bell Esq, nominated  
by / sd Committee Governor, President of Council,  
Treasurer & Warehouse Keeper at Cape Coast  
Castle upon / Gold Coast of Africa

Whereas by an Act passed in / Twenty third  
of / Pregein of his late Majesty King George /  
Second, intituled an Act for extending & improv<sup>g</sup>  
/ Trade of Africa, it is among of Thgs enacted  
to all his Majesty's Subjects who sh trade to or  
from any of / Ports or Places in Africa, between Cape  
Blanco & / Cape of Good Hope sh forever here-  
after be deem'd a Body corporate & Politick by  
/ Name of / Co of Merchants Kadg to Africa.  
And whereas / Committee of / sd Co of / time be<sup>g</sup>  
legally chosen & by / sd Act vested w Power to  
direct / Affairs of / sd Co And whereas / Right  
Honourable / Lords Commrs of / Treasury h issued  
to this Committee / Sum of Ten thousand Pounds  
granted by Parliamt of / Use Support Maintenance  
& preservan of Forts & Settlements upon / Coast of  
Africa wh Sum or / part thereof is now  
invested by / sd Committee in Stores, Goods &c  
of / purpose aforesd, And whereas from / good  
opinion / Committee h of Dilige Capacity &  
Integrity of Mr Charles Bell, now gov to Cape Coast  
Castle upon / Coast of Africa & in regard to /  
Security given by him to / sd Committee, they h  
Consigned to him a Supply of Men, Goods, Stores &  
Provisions amt<sup>g</sup> to £4276.13.11 as P. Invoices  
shipped on board / Josepha, Justinian Kingston

Masters & p Bills o Lad<sup>g</sup> inclosed. Now upon / Arr<sup>l</sup>  
 Arrival o f Charles Bell Esq<sup>r</sup>, y are to proceed  
 immediately & w all possible Dispatch to unload &  
 take on Shore all / above Supplies & when rec<sup>d</sup>  
 to endorse / Bills o Lad<sup>g</sup> & transmit / Same to /  
 Committee by / first Oppy. And y are to apply &  
 dispose o l Goods f / Use o / sd Cos Forts &  
 Settlements upon / Gold Coast accordg to / Wants &  
 necessities they sh respectively be in, & to sell  
 barter exchange or o<sup>r</sup>wise dispose o / same  
 agreeable to / Course & Nature o Trade usually  
 carried on in those parts, in / best Manner & to  
 / best Advantage y can, & dispose o & apply  
 / profits & / produce o / some f & loads /  
 preservation & support o / sd Settlements &  
 Trade . . . [to] in such Manner as sh best answer  
 those Purposes, And to / End t y may discharge /  
 Trust reposed in y by / Committee afores<sup>d</sup> to /  
 Satisfac<sup>n</sup> o / Publick y are to make fair Entries  
 in a Book or Books f t purpose o / Applic<sup>n</sup>,  
 disposal & Expens<sup>r</sup> o Goods Stores & Provins  
 Consigned to y as afores<sup>d</sup> w / most proper &  
 authentick Vouchers f each Article t can be  
 procur<sup>d</sup>, & y are to transmit them / sd Accts &  
 Vouchers by as frequent Oppies as / Nature  
 o / business will admit, & y are to make up a  
 Balance y<sup>r</sup> Books evy Six Months & transmit  
 fair Copies thereof to / Committee by Two diff<sup>t</sup>  
 Conveyances. So soon as y conveniently can  
 after y<sup>r</sup> Arrival, / Committee recommend to y  
 to send them a true State o / Condi<sup>n</sup> o / Forts, w  
 an Inventory o evy Every thing in each o

them & / Number o People y think necessary f /  
Support & Protecti<sup>n</sup> o them & also an acc<sup>t</sup> o what<sup>r</sup>  
is want<sup>d</sup> f<sup>r</sup> hence f Repairs, & an estimate o  
what / Repairs will amt to as near as y can  
Judge. If any Settlements or Embarachments shd  
be made or attempted by any foreign Power or  
Powers what<sup>r</sup>, y are to oppose & present / same  
as much as in y lies & give / Committee advice  
thereof by w<sup>r</sup> Opp<sup>t</sup>; & y<sup>r</sup> Conduct thereon, y  
are to transmit to / Committee w<sup>r</sup> Two Months  
an exact Muster Roll o all / Officers, Factors  
Writers, Servants, Soldiers & Slaves, who are w<sup>r</sup>  
at / Time at Cape Coast Castle, & all / o<sup>r</sup> Forts  
& Settlements upon / Gold Coast, w<sup>ch</sup> a Clause in-  
serted therein, acknowledg<sup>d</sup> t they & each o them  
h<sup>e</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> the Pay to / Day o each Muster Roll,  
wh<sup>ch</sup> must be sign<sup>d</sup> by w<sup>r</sup> Person nam<sup>d</sup> therein,  
or the Master set thereto, & y are also to send  
an acc<sup>t</sup> o w<sup>r</sup> person who dies thr, / Times when  
they died, & in what St<sup>m</sup>, & / Death o w<sup>r</sup> person  
who dies there must be certifi<sup>d</sup> by / Surgeon or his  
Assistant w<sup>ch</sup> Cause thereof, & / places wh<sup>ch</sup> become  
Vacant by such Deaths must be supplied in what  
relates to / Fort by / Council, & such as relate to / Goods  
by yourself, untill such Time as y can h<sup>e</sup> / Direc<sup>n</sup> o /  
Committee therein. Y are to take a part<sup>r</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> o  
w<sup>r</sup> Vessel t Comes upon / Coast, what Part they  
Come f<sup>r</sup>, / Times o thr Arrival & Departure  
what Number o Slaves they h<sup>e</sup> on board & to what  
place they are bound & transmit / same to / Com-  
mittee by w<sup>r</sup> convenient Opp<sup>t</sup>. And as it is /  
ST first & principal Care & Design in / Act by wh<sup>ch</sup> we  
are Constituted, t w<sup>r</sup> British Subject shd h<sup>e</sup> a  
free Trade to Africa, y are most essentially

required to give w<sup>y</sup> British Vessel Agent or Factor  
 all reasonable Aid & Assistance, & to allow them free  
 Intercourse w<sup>th</sup> Natives who trade under / Com-  
 mand o<sup>f</sup> yr<sup>s</sup> Forts, or within / Extent o<sup>f</sup> yr<sup>s</sup> Influence  
 w<sup>th</sup> Partiality or Preference, & in order to render /  
 Forts o<sup>f</sup> most extensive Use to / Gen Trade o<sup>f</sup>  
 G<sup>t</sup> Brittain upon / Coast o<sup>f</sup> Africa & are strictly  
 enjoined not to trade on yr<sup>s</sup> own Acc<sup>t</sup> w<sup>th</sup> any  
 Foreigners nor suffer any o<sup>r</sup> person to do it on  
 any pret<sup>se</sup> what<sup>so</sup>ever, so far as it is in yr<sup>s</sup> Power to  
 prevent it, w<sup>th</sup> this Excep<sup>n</sup> t<sup>o</sup> Gold & Brazil  
 Tobacco & bro<sup>u</sup>g on t<sup>o</sup> Coast by / Portuguese are  
 necessary f<sup>o</sup> / Paym<sup>t</sup> o<sup>f</sup> Negroes & o<sup>r</sup> Com-  
 modities as well as Salaries & o<sup>r</sup> Necessaries, yr<sup>s</sup>  
 Judgment is to direct & how far a Trade may be  
 carried on w<sup>th</sup> / Portuguese f<sup>o</sup> these two Articles,  
 in wh<sup>ch</sup> you may indulge yourself & o<sup>r</sup>s as Oppy<sup>n</sup> sh<sup>all</sup>  
 offer or Convenience Requires. These exclusions  
 are not designed to prevent yr<sup>s</sup> giving assistance to  
 any foreign Vessel in Distress, these yr<sup>s</sup> Hum-  
 anity will direct y<sup>e</sup> to do what / Law o<sup>r</sup> Na<sup>t</sup>  
 requires f<sup>o</sup> people who are in amity w<sup>th</sup> each  
 o<sup>r</sup> but this is not to be extended farther than  
 Relief f<sup>o</sup> the immediate Distress. If any  
 Circumstances sh<sup>all</sup> arise wh<sup>ch</sup> are not seen f<sup>o</sup>  
 provided f<sup>o</sup> in these Instructions y<sup>e</sup> are to ~~conduct~~  
~~yourself~~ conduct yr<sup>s</sup>elf therein accordg<sup>g</sup> to /  
 best o<sup>f</sup> yr<sup>s</sup> Skill Power & Judgment lawg<sup>g</sup> always  
 in View The Preserv<sup>n</sup> o<sup>f</sup> British Property &  
 Trade; & f<sup>o</sup> yr<sup>s</sup> better Gov<sup>n</sup>. We refer y<sup>e</sup> to / Act  
 o<sup>f</sup> Parliamt<sup>nt</sup> passed in / Year 1750 f<sup>o</sup> our Establish<sup>mt</sup>  
 wh<sup>ch</sup> was deliver'd to Mr Thomas Melvil on his  
 go<sup>g</sup> out Governor t<sup>o</sup> Cape Coast Castle in

/ Year 1751 & now remaining the f / Use o / self  
& / Council. You are to take Care t all Complaints  
o our Officers, in / serv Forts as o / Captains  
or Officers o Tradg Ships be fully examined  
by yourself & / Council at Cape Coast, & such o  
them as sh appear o Consequence to / Trade in  
gen are to be represented by y & / Council to  
/ Committee.

Signed & sealed  
By Order o / Committee  
o / Co o Merchants  
Tradg to Africa

[M.D.]

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[End o / docs in T. 70. 1516]

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34. Copy also in B.1 6/3 doc B 105.  
There also are copies of RAC's Instructions to Roberts  
dd Oct 26. 1749 [B 104] - copied vol 1776-1777  
p 92. & letter RAC to Roberts, Husbands & Boilers  
dd Nov 30. 1749. L.B. 106] copied ibid p 34.  
T. 70. 1194.

Instructions from Henry Lascelles Esq<sup>r</sup> 2 to Mr  
John Roberts appointed by / Royal African Co  
o England President & o / Council, one o /  
Chief Agents & Treasurer o Cape Coast Castle,  
& to William Husbands also one o / Chief  
Agents & Warehouse Keeper.

Whereas / His Hon. / Lords Comrs of Treasury  
h issued to me / sd Henry Lascelles / Sum o Ten  
thousand Pounds to be applied in purchasing Stores  
& Goods to be sent to / Coast o Africa f / Support  
o / sd Co's Forts & Castles & for such o<sup>r</sup> Purposes as  
will best answer to / Intent<sup>n</sup> o a Clause in an  
Act o Parliam<sup>t</sup> passed / last Sess<sup>n</sup> f / issuing / sd  
Ten thousand Pounds & f / due Applic<sup>n</sup> whereof  
I h given Security to be answerable as far as  
in me lies.

And whereas fm / good Opinion I h o / Capa-  
city, Dilige<sup>n</sup>, & Integrity o / Mr John Roberts now  
going on to Cape Coast Castle aforesaid, & o / Mr  
William Husbands now residing there in regard  
to / Security given me f each o / I h consigned  
to / Supply o Men, Foods Stores & Provisions as  
per Invoice amt<sup>g</sup> to £ 7288. 10. 3 shipped on  
board / Speedwell Joseph Bellamy Master P. Bills  
o Lad<sup>g</sup> inclosed

Now upon / Arrival o / Mr John Roberts  
at Cape Coast Castle / sd John Roberts & William  
Husbands are to take joint Possess<sup>n</sup> o / same  
& are to proceed immediately & w<sup>h</sup>all possible

Dispatch to unload & take on Shore all / above Supplies  
inclosg / Bills o Ladg when received & are to apply  
& dispose o / same f / use o / sd Cos Forts & Settlements  
on those Parts o / Coast o Africa called / Gold Coast  
& Whydah accordg to / Wants & Necessitys they sh  
respectively be in & to sell & barter & exchange or  
otherwise dispose o / same agreeable to / Course &  
nature o / sd Trade usually carried on in those  
Parts in / best Manner & to / best Advantage of  
com, & apply & dispose o / Produce & Profits o /  
same f towards / Preservation & Support of sd  
Settlements & Trade to Africa in such Manner as sh  
best answer those Purposes, & y are to furnish /  
sd Ship afterwards w Wood Water & Ballast  
w<sup>t</sup> loss o Time as specified in / Estima<sup>n</sup> made  
o / Ships Freight & to / End t y & each o y may  
discharge / Trust reposed in y by me to / Satisfac<sup>n</sup>  
o / Publick y are to make fair & regular  
Entries in a Book or Books f t Purpose o /  
Application, Disposi<sup>n</sup>, & Expenditure o / Goods  
Stores & Provisions consigned f, as aforesaid as  
/ most proper & authentick Vouchers f each  
Article t can be procured & y are to trans-  
mit to me / sd Accts & Vouchers by as  
frequent Oppys as / Nature o / Business  
will admit.

And whereas there may be many Arrears  
due & owing by / sd Co to the Servants residg  
at / sev<sup>l</sup> Forts & Settlements on / Gold Coast & at  
Whydah, on / Arrival o Mr W<sup>r</sup> John Roberts  
& y<sup>r</sup> taking Joint Possess<sup>n</sup> as aforesaid, y are

not to pay /sd Arrears or any Part o them fm  
 these Supplys but to apply / same + / Produce o  
 them only to +f / Support o /sd Forts + Settle-  
 ments f / Time to come to commence fm / Day  
 o y<sup>r</sup> taking joint Possess<sup>n</sup> as aforesaid, + y are to  
 charge / usual Allowances f Salaries + Subsistence  
 f yourselves + Mr Boteler + f / ~~o~~ Servants +  
 Slaves o / Co under y<sup>r</sup> Direcon accordg to /  
 Co's present Establish<sup>mt</sup> + all o necessary  
 Expenses, In wh I recommend to y ~~to~~ use  
 / utmost Fidelity + good Managem<sup>t</sup>

And in Case o / Death o either o y / Survivor  
 o y is to carry ~~to~~ / Business aforesaid into  
 Exec<sup>u</sup>tion.

The foregoing is a true Copy o / Instructions  
 delivered me by Henry Lascelles Esqre  
 Signed (John Roberts)

London 2<sup>d</sup> December 1749.

In Vindice o / Cost + Charges o Goods shipped on board  
 / Speedwell, Joseph Bellamy Commander, bound f  
 Cape Coast Castle in Africa + go consigned to  
 Mr John Roberts (appointed by / Royal African  
 Co o Eng Land, President o / Council one o / Chief  
 Agents + Treasurer at Cape Coast Castle) in  
 Company w Mr William Husbards (also one o  
 / Chief Agents + Warehouse Keepers), or / Survivor o

them for Support of sd Co's Forts & Castles re<sup>a</sup>.

note The goods comprised in this Invoice include  
1 following - amongst o<sup>r</sup>s -

Trading Guns w<sup>th</sup> Dogs or Buccaneer Stocky

Cotton Chellocks (yards) Blue Says (piece)

Blackburn Cottons ( " ) Grass Green " "

Perpet's (red, green blue) (piece)

Long Silks - Yellow, Green ( " )

Tobines ( " )

Bandanners Cash Ties " "

ask Neptunes Silebias " "

Guinea Fans near Niccaneers (piece - Bales)

Guinea Basins Tapsells " "

Carvedaries Bejuta paints " "

Dysocks Sogs negane paints " "

Cuttaners Romals " "

ask Romals Phofaes " "

Taffaties Chint's Patma " "

Carvedaries " "

Cherconnaes

Blue Bafts

Chint's

Sheets

sd Invoice o Stores

... ut supra ...

No items worth parts notice

170.1194

38

Letter dated Cape Coast Castle 14 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1749. [20]

fm Messrs Roberts & Husbands to Henry Casutt Esq<sup>r</sup>

We do ourselves / Honour to inform y<sup>e</sup> by his Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s Ship / Surprise o / Arrival here o / Speedwell Gally, Joseph Bellamy Master / 2<sup>d</sup> Cur<sup>ts</sup> & beg leave to acknowledge / Receipt o y<sup>e</sup> respected Fav<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1749 w<sup>ch</sup> enclosed Invoices & Bill o Ladg<sup>s</sup> f / Foods, Castle Stores & Provisions &c a am<sup>ts</sup> to £4283. 10. 3 w<sup>ch</sup> Charges & disb<sup>ts</sup> o Factors, Waiters, Artificers & Soldiers entertained in / Service o / Royal African Co o England who all arrived in good Health, what Part o / Cargoes y<sup>e</sup> landed is in good Order & upon / whole is exceedg<sup>ly</sup> properly assorted f / little

Trade th<sup>ere</sup> is to Windward o Winneba, but th<sup>ere</sup> is a considerable Branch comes fm / Ashantee Country to Accra where / only Foods on Demand are at p<sup>re</sup> sent in / enclosed list a any Vessel t<sup>hat</sup> is so fortunate to br<sup>ing</sup> on<sup>ch</sup> such Assortm<sup>ts</sup> will be certain o meetg<sup>ing</sup> immediate Dispatch. As f Gold & Teeth, t<sup>he</sup> Trade is so diminished / Cou<sup>ncil</sup> h<sup>as</sup> not b<sup>een</sup> able to take a sufficient<sup>ly</sup> Quantity to purchase / necessary European Provis<sup>ions</sup> f / Publick Table so t<sup>hat</sup> nothg<sup>ing</sup> cd arrive more reasonable than Supply o Provis<sup>ions</sup> &c a sent out by y<sup>e</sup>; Or indeed did t<sup>he</sup> People arrive too early a malignant Fever hasg<sup>ing</sup> raged in so terrible a Degree t<sup>hat</sup> few o / Co<sup>ast</sup> Servants resident upon / Coast or those br<sup>ought</sup> on<sup>ch</sup> by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Stockwell & Husbands h<sup>ave</sup> escaped its Fatality.

We in pursu<sup>ance</sup> o a letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1749 received fm / Hon<sup>ble</sup> Cou<sup>ncil</sup> o Assistants o / Royal African Co o England took Possess<sup>ion</sup> o the Forts & Settlements, & in sd letter they

injoin us to obey yr Orders & Instruc<sup>ns</sup> w regard  
to / Applic<sup>n</sup> o / Goods, Stores &c P. Speedwell wh  
we beg of will permit us to assure y, sh be  
punctually & faithfully observed. And t<sup>o</sup> us  
hearts full o gratitude; return y our most  
Sincere Thanks f / Honour y were pleased to confer  
upon us, by / Confide<sup>n</sup> y reposed in intrusting us w/  
Applic<sup>n</sup> o / Publi<sup>k</sup> Money granted to his Majesty  
by Parliamt f / Support o / Trade to Africa. In  
In sd Disposal we sh make it our Study to answer  
fully yr Expectan consistent w our Duty to / Publi<sup>k</sup>  
a yourself; & endeavour to promote & increase /  
Trade o his Majestys Subjects to these Parts &  
distress o<sup>r</sup> hands endeavouring to rival us in it wh  
can not be done by / Inform<sup>ns</sup> w h a / Num-  
ber o French Ships employed, but by / Influence  
& protect<sup>n</sup> o / Forts & Settlements, well supported &  
duely supplied

The Surprise beg ready to sail f Europe Time  
will not permit us to be so partic<sup>l</sup> in Rel<sup>n</sup> to  
/ Situ<sup>n</sup> o Affairs as we are desirous to be, ~~wh~~  
wh we flatter ourselves will sufficiently apologize  
to this Brevity, but as we are unfortun<sup>l</sup> / Speed-  
well & hope to Dispatch her in a few Days, by  
her Conveyce we sh inform y o few Occurrences  
as we are w most sincere respect & Truth

Sir  
Yr most Obedient dutiful  
& faithful Servants

Signed { Jon Roberts  
          { Wm Husbands  
          { Thomas Boteler

Copy o a letter fm Messrs Roberts, Husbands & Boteler  
to Mr Clifton at Annamaboe dated at  
Cape Coast Castle 22 Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1749 [50]  
Mr Clifton . . . [Fisher p. 58] . . . . .

PS. Forward / enclosed letters to / French Vessells,  
inform / British Captains at Annamaboe o our  
Orders, & ask the assistance & advice if necessary.

Copy o a letter fm Messrs Roberts sea to / com-  
manding Officers o / French Vessells off Corma-  
ntine & Annamaboe dated Cape Coast Castle 22<sup>d</sup> febr<sup>y</sup> 1750  
Sirs . . . [Fisher p. 60] . . . . . [as / foll<sup>g</sup> add<sup>d</sup>]  
upon a necessity o Water or Provisions it is a ~~known~~  
Truth well experienced by Commanders in / French  
Trade t<sup>o</sup> a proper Supply is always to be had upon  
Application to / principals o Cape Coast Castle who  
are always ready to contribute ~~the~~ ~~Assistance~~ the As-  
sistance o ~~such~~ such sort & part<sup>ly</sup> at this Time,  
as there is so good & firm an Alliance betw<sup>n</sup> our  
Royal Master & / Crown o France, we are fr<sup>o</sup> Sirs  
Sgd Jno Roberts, w<sup>o</sup> husbands, Tho<sup>s</sup> Boteler

Copy o a letter fm / English Captains to / Council  
o Cape Coast, dated on board / Polly in Annamaboe  
Road, 18<sup>th</sup> March 1749/50  
Gentlemen  
... [Fisher p 59] ...

Mr Clifton's Answer to / forego<sup>g</sup> letter dated  
Annamaboe ~~the~~ 5<sup>th</sup> March 1749.  
... [Fisher p 58] ...

The Ambassadors of / Council of Cape Coast Castle to /  
foregoing letter, dated Cape Coast Castle 17

19th March 1749/50

Gentlemen

We recd yr letter late last night & commend  
/ well judged Steps of Text, it concerns us it is not  
more in our Power to absent / unviolent Answers  
of French man to yr Permons & to redress /  
present Grievs Guided by protectg of fr Inhabitants,  
/ Subjects of France assume on a Trade y h / un-  
doubted Right to. But it is candidly our Opinion  
Gent<sup>r</sup> t / French must be also absolutely forbid  
by th<sup>r</sup> own Govern<sup>r</sup>. to come upon / Gold Coast or be  
obliged to it by ours. We fear / Council of France  
will never do / former & much regret our own it  
So far as in / latter of Property & Privilege are rules  
to be relinquish'd in these Parts so remote from Redress  
& distant from Appeal & when infringed shd be  
maintain'd w<sup>th</sup> Vigour upon / Spots of / Inhabitants  
Shd be chastis'd w<sup>th</sup> Resol<sup>n</sup> wh<sup>ch</sup> y will find  
us ready to assist in to / utmost of our Power.  
We lament our Inability in / present Case & t  
(if / French Capt<sup>n</sup> persists in / y at Anamaboe)  
... [Fishes p 60] ...

Y<sup>e</sup> may command any Thg we h at Cape Coast Castle  
Cannoes or what else y may conjecture we may be  
Serviceable to y as we are most sincerely Gent<sup>r</sup>:  
Y<sup>r</sup> most hum<sup>b</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Signed

John Roberts  
Wm. Husband  
Thos. Boteler.

Letter from Mr Jo<sup>m</sup> Roberts to Henry Lascelles Esq<sup>r</sup> dated

Juxta Fort 31 July 1750

[To be copied for / copy in T. 40. 1476 (f 252-254)]

Goods proper for / Accra Market 15 februry 1749-50  
confirmed by letter of / 31<sup>st</sup> July 1750.

Includes:

Dutch Co's Guns, Dutch Guns, Bird's Guns,  
Dutch Gunpowder, Brass Pans 12 Mr, London.  
Pewter Basins, Lognum Vitae Horn handled  
Knives, Small Blood Great Corral, Silver Coin  
viz Crowns, half Crowns, Dollars, & Pallaces  
Double & Single Iron bars, Double sheets, Crowns,  
Copper Rods, Beads, Sarsaparilla, Spring Padlocks  
Small Brass Kettles, Allejars Chelles, Allejars  
Beje Papants, Bandannoes, Cuttances, Romalls  
Taffatics, Silk Phataes, Silk Negamapants  
Lhanderbannoes, Tobines or English Carridannies,  
Negamapants, Patna Chints, Silesiab,  
Good painted Lonsins Lommene - avoid Green -  
Meslapalim Chints.

A Copy of Mr Roberts's Bond to H Lascelles Esq<sup>r</sup>  
of Ten thousand Pounds

[ n c ]

End of Book T. 40. 1194.

1. 40. 1446 [John Roberts' Letter Book]

7] Earl of Halifax London 17 Aug<sup>r</sup> 1749

I give myself / Honour to Inform yr  
Lordship t / African Co<sup>y</sup> h<sup>e</sup> Received a letter fm the  
Agents at Cape Coast Castle dated / 6<sup>th</sup> May last /  
purport<sup>t</sup> o wh<sup>o</sup> is t f want o Supplies they h<sup>e</sup> at least  
b<sup>e</sup>n obliged to Abandon Tantomquery Fort o / [to<sup>o</sup>]  
discretion  
Black [sic] & t they are fearful t they sh<sup>d</sup> be obliged  
to do / Same as all / Rest o / o<sup>r</sup> fort<sup>s</sup> if they h<sup>e</sup>  
not supplies, as / Cos Servants h<sup>e</sup> supported them-  
selves as long as they had anything but now many  
h<sup>e</sup> b<sup>e</sup>n obliged to go on board Ships f Subsistence

10] They say they sh<sup>d</sup> endeavour to secure Cape Coast  
as long as they can w<sup>h</sup>en till they are reduced to  
starve in Case / Dutch do not take / Advantage o  
the Poverty & Spirit up / Malice Negroes ag<sup>t</sup> them.

14] African House October 17, 1749.

Sir In answer to yr letter o / 12<sup>th</sup> Instant<sup>x</sup> We  
readily consent t / Goods Stores & Provisions y sh<sup>d</sup>  
purchase w<sup>h</sup> / Money f received fm / Treasury f /  
Support o / Cos Fort<sup>s</sup> & Settlements in Africa be  
consigned to such Person or Persons as sh<sup>d</sup> be judged  
most proper f / Publick Utility. But at / same  
Time as we are intrusted w<sup>h</sup> / Fort<sup>s</sup>, Castles Negroes  
& o<sup>r</sup> Rights & Property in Africa, / Preservation o  
wh<sup>o</sup> is o gr Impce to this Na<sup>m</sup>, We hope y will  
give us leave to use such necessary Ca<sup>m</sup> as /  
Nature o / Trust reposed in us requires

We find y propose to supersede Cap<sup>t</sup>

Stockwell as Chief Agent & Treasurer, as well as Governor, by recommending Mr John Roberts to be Chocoma Treasurer & First Agent, & Mr William Husbands to be continued our Warehouse Keeper & Second Agent. There are certain Advices to Captain Stockwell was arrived & in possession of Cape Coast Castle as Governor of Gold Coast & one of Chief Agents (w<sup>th</sup> Messrs Husbands & Boteler) & Treasurer at Cape Coast Castle, in pursuance of proper Powers & Authority from / Co. He is a man of Experience in African Trade & has been before employed in Service of / Co & merited the Thanks. He has given sufficient Security to / Co & / sd Securities are now ready to give any further Security for / sd Stockwell, & / Stores &c sh<sup>ll</sup> be properly applied & the Goods for Sale sh<sup>ll</sup> be sold for Publick Benefit, & accounted for accordingly, & that no arrears of Wages or o<sup>r</sup> Charges whatso<sup>ev</sup> sh<sup>ll</sup> be paid from Proceeds of / sd Goods, &c. - wise than what sh<sup>ll</sup> accrue after some certain Day & y<sup>e</sup> sh<sup>ll</sup> nominate & appoint.

18] We have further to add that he was appointed a Chief Agent & Treasurer by a full Court Both Governor's present, & he was appointed Governor by a legal Court / Sub Governor present & had also his Instructions from the Court. He carried on a large Quantity of Medicines, Stationary Ware, Provisions & o<sup>r</sup> Necessaries, & besides he engaged on a & some Recruits of Men at his own Cost when / Co had exhausted the Stock for Public Service & had no Parliamentary Reimbursement or Annual Aid for some Years & consequently were not able to

Send out those Necessaries; or besides he carried out  
a dge Cargo o Goods f Sale, and we are informed  
by late Adversis fr / Coast t when he & Mrs  
Husbands arrived on / Coast w thir Stores & Goods  
/ People on ~~Shore~~ ~~were~~ ~~settled~~ Shore were redreemly  
glad o thir Arrival, f they were almost starved, /  
Slaves were go<sup>g</sup> to o / Castle were go<sup>g</sup> to live in /  
Town f they had not Victuals to eat in / Castle.  
Thir was no Trade at all at Cape Coast Castle  
before Mr Stockwell's Arrival, but now they are  
go<sup>g</sup> to Trade down / Coast f Slaves & Teeth f  
/ Castle. This Out-Set o Mrs Stockwell's will  
in all probability prove / Salvam o / whole  
British Rights & Property throughout / whole  
Gold Coast.

Since this is / Case, & Captain Stockwell is now  
in possess<sup>n</sup> in pursu<sup>t</sup> o his Appointment as afores<sup>d</sup>  
wt / least Complaint agst him We think it inconsistent  
inconsistent w Honour & Justice & / Trust reposed in  
us to remove him wt any Cause & after so much  
merit. Especially as We apprehend / Affairs may be ef-  
fectually answer'd wt it, by appointg Mr Roberts  
an Additional Chief Agent, to act as a Joint  
Treasurer w Mr Stockwell at one hundred & fifty  
Pounds per Annum Salary & also as a Joint  
Warehouse Keeper w Mr Husbands at one hundred &  
fifty Pounds per Annum more. In wh we sh  
readily Concur if it be agreeable to y<sup>r</sup>.

We are &c

Signed By Order o / Court o Assistants

R Spence Secy

To Henry Lascelles Esq<sup>r</sup>

20] To / Court o Assistants o / Royal African Co o England.  
Gentlemen

The Right Honourable / Lords o / Treasury  
have lodged in my hands / Sum o Ten Thousand  
Pounds To be invested in Goods, Stores & Provisions f  
/ Support o / Co's Forts & Settlements in Africa & it  
has been recommended to me to consign / same to  
such Person or Persons as I sh think fit to intrust  
w / Applican<sup>n</sup> thereof & Mr John Roberts & Mrs  
William Husbands have bin well recommended  
as proper Security f / Disposal o such a Pro-  
por<sup>n</sup> o / sd Publick Money as sh be invested &  
sent to Cape Coast Castle. I take this Opy to  
acquaint y<sup>e</sup> thereof, & as it is absolutely  
necessary t / sd Two Gentlemen shd h / Applican<sup>n</sup>  
& Disposal thereof w<sup>t</sup> beg Subject to / Control o  
any o<sup>r</sup> Person or Persons, I do hereby accordg ly  
recommend Mr Roberts to be chosen y<sup>e</sup> Treasurer  
& First Agent, & Mrs Husbands to be y<sup>e</sup> Warehouse-  
keeper & Second Agent, & they to have / full  
Disposal & Applican<sup>n</sup> o / sd Investm<sup>t</sup> & to be  
accountable to me f / Same, & as Mrs Thomas  
Butler [sic - Boteler] y<sup>e</sup> present Accountant is  
also well recommended to me as a proper  
Person, I think him fit to be continued in /  
sd Office. I desire y<sup>e</sup> Speedy Resol<sup>n</sup> & t y  
will lose no Time in expediting / necessary  
Powers to them bec Delays may be o<sup>r</sup> ill consequ<sup>t</sup>  
to / Publick as well as to / Interest o / Co.

I am &c  
[no sign]

London, 12<sup>th</sup> October Octr 1749

London October 19<sup>th</sup> 1749

Gentlemen In answer to yr letter of 17<sup>th</sup> I am to  
tell y<sup>e</sup> t<sup>e</sup> I do strictly adhere to my letter to y<sup>e</sup> o/  
12<sup>th</sup> Instant, & t<sup>e</sup> I sh<sup>d</sup> suspect y<sup>e</sup> will give / necessary  
Powers to / Persons therein named w<sup>o</sup> fut<sup>r</sup> Delay  
otherwise / Applicam<sup>t</sup> of money issued, a good Part  
o<sup>r</sup> wh<sup>o</sup> is already invested in Goods must stand still  
to / infinite prejudice to / Publick as well as to /  
Interest o<sup>r</sup> yr Co I am r<sup>e</sup>.

[Sign in  
Roberts  
handwriting] signed Henry Stowell

To The Court & Assistants of Royal African Co

African House.

At a Court & Assistants  
October 19<sup>th</sup> 1749.

The Queens beg put

T<sup>e</sup> this Court do agree in pursuance o<sup>r</sup> a letter fm  
/ Committee o<sup>r</sup> / Co's Creditors dated / 11<sup>th</sup> Instant  
[in c.] & likewise in Compliance w<sup>o</sup> / Recommendation fm  
Mr Stowell in his letter to / Court o<sup>r</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> Instant,  
& another letter fm him to / Court o<sup>r</sup> this Day's  
Date in answer to / Courts letter to him o<sup>r</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup>  
Instant Recommend<sup>g</sup> Mr Roberts, Mr Husband, &  
Mr Boteler to be / three Chief Agents at Cape  
Coast Castle

It was carried in / Affirmative

Then / Queens beg put

T<sup>e</sup> in pursuance o<sup>r</sup> above Resol<sup>n</sup> Mr Stowell  
be discharged / Co's Service

It was carried in / Affirmative

31] London. To / Honble / Court o Assistants o / Royal  
African Co o England  
Downs, 5 Dec<sup>r</sup>

Honble Gentlemen

I beg leave to return y<sup>e</sup> my  
sincere thanks f<sup>r</sup> / Honours y<sup>e</sup> h<sup>e</sup> done me in ap-  
pointing me one o<sup>f</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Agents on / Gold Coast o Africa  
& to assure y<sup>e</sup> t<sup>h</sup> I sh<sup>al</sup> always make it my study to  
promote y<sup>e</sup> Honours & Interest more.

I think it my Duty to inform y<sup>e</sup>  
Honours t<sup>h</sup> I got to Gravesend on Saturday morn<sup>g</sup>  
& went on board [ / Speedwell ] & paid / Armourers  
Sergeant & Soldiers engaged in y<sup>e</sup> Service / advance  
money allowed them as Customary, / o<sup>f</sup> y<sup>e</sup>  
Serv<sup>t</sup>s were paid before, & yest<sup>d</sup> we sailed &

32] are at this time at an anchor in Margaret road  
[ / Margaret Bay<sup>?</sup> or Margat<sup>?</sup> ] / Wind S.W, w<sup>th</sup> a Secre-  
tary, Three Factors, The Inspector, Seven Writers, an  
Armourer Sergeant Serjt. & twenty one Soldiers on  
board. I am w<sup>th</sup> great respect  
Honble Gentlemen re  
Margaret Road 4th December Year 1749

[ A number o letters fm Roberts to diverse persons  
informing them<sup>t</sup> / present Gow<sup>e</sup> o C.C.C. is recalled  
& t<sup>h</sup> I am appointed in his stead ]

[ copied in Green Note book II ]