

The Dutch Director over the North Coast

of Africa, and the Island of Thon.

1646 - 1647.

1646 - 1647.

IV.

THE GOLD COAST.

1646 - 1647.



Resolutions of States General. 1646. (S.G. 3229)

Martin 5th February 1646.

-About the English Guinea Co. and St Thomé, and the outstanding debts claimed by it there.-

The Dutch Director over the North Coast

of Africa, and the Island St Thomé, complaining of the actions of the WIC, through the Admiralty Amsterdam of the ship Fortuna, referred to Admiralty.

1646 - 1647. March 1646.

-Representative of Duke of Courland, referred to above.

JACOB A. VAN DER WEL.

in S.G. 5774;- in which they justify actions of Fortuna as trading on Coast of Africa in breach of Charter and Warrant.- referred to representative of Duke of Courland.-

15th April 1646.

-Further correspondence re ship Fortuna in name of Duke of Courland, by WIC, Warrant. (very more minutes on same subject).

Monday, 23rd May 1646.

Received a letter from the Directors of the WIC at the Chamber in England, written at Middleburgh the 15th instant for the next Assembly of the XIX, with the points of Convocation (Beestijlde); with communication from the Chamber of Amsterdam (1646) to 's-Gravenhage towards 4th June. Requesting their H.H. to appoint Deputies. -Decided to hold over Convocation for Assembly Deputies till Assembly of XIX had arrived.

(S.G. 5774). Above letter in original with the Points (18). Including the following:

B.

The members are requested in case of absence to explain what has been equipped and what, since the last Assembly, to St Thomé and Lourenço, and those sailing are most particularly recommended to be careful therein, so that the trade did not come to fail and any fortification.

## Resolutions of States General. 1646. (S.G. 3228)

Martis 6th February 1646.

-About the English Guinea Co. and St Thomé, and the outstanding debts claimed by it there.-

Lunae 12th March 1646.

Read a petition presented to their Ho.Mo. in name of Mr George Firch, Councillor of the Duke of Courland, complaining of the seizure by the WIC. through the Admiralty Amsterdam of the ship Fortuyn. Referred to Admiralty.

23rd March 1646.

-Remonstrance re same, on behalf of Duke of Courland, referred to WIC.-

9th April 1646.

-Read reply from WIC. (copy in S.G.5774)- in which they justify seizure of Fortuyn as trading on Coast of Africa in breach of Charter and Placades.- Referred to representative of Duke of Courland.-

18th April 1646.

-Further remonstrance re ship Fortuyn in name of Duke of Courland, to Ho.Mo. read.- (Many more minutes on same subject).

Mercury, 23rd May 1646.

Received a letter from the Directors of the WIC. at the Chamber in Zeeland, written at Middelburch the 18th instant for the next Assembly of the XIX, with the Points of Convocation (Beschrijvinge); with communication from the Chamber of Amsterdam geleekt(?) in 's-Gravenhage towards 4th June. Requesting their Ho.Mo. to appoint deputies. -Decided to hold over Commission for Assembly Deputies till Assembly of XIX had arrived.-

(S.G. 5774). Above letter in original with the Points (18), including the following:

6.

The members are requested to make disclosure and explain what has been equipped and sent, since the last Assembly, to GUINEA, St Thomé and Loanda, and those failing are most seriously recommended to fulfil their turn, so that the trade did not come to fall to any foreigners.

11.

Finding that the Account of the 18 ships to the North Coast of Africa, since 30th November 1639 to 31st August 1644, has not been settled, although the same was handed over by the Chamber of Amsterdam, and by the Assembly of the XIX placed in the hands of the General Rekenkamer i.a.w. the minutes of 26th September 1645; the members are therefore charged to request to come charged that the same account may be closed (gelost).

Martis 12th June 1646.

-Deputies appointed to by S.G. to preside at meeting of the XIX in the Hague.-

(end of S.G. resolutions 1646.)

Minutes of the "Besoignes", in the Hague, of the Deputed Directors of the WIC. (3 March-4 May 1646) (WIC.oc.2\*)

Lunae 5th March 1646.

Mr Ten Hove, by orders of the Chamber of the Maze, has requested settlement (voldoening) of their portion in the 90,000 gulden, which was found good by the Assembly of the XIX to Brazil, in cash; and so far had been detained by the Chamber of Zeeland out of the gold lately come from GUINEA.

Mercury the 14th March 1646.

Inventory of the papers handed over by Mr Abraham Trouwens on behalf of the General Rekenkamer.

... ..

3. Accounts of the 18 ships departed to GUINEA since 31st November 1639 to ulto August 1644, together with a memorandum concerning the bevinden of the same ships.

... ..

Saturday the 21st April 1646.

It being reported at the Assembly that in Texel two private ships are lying ready to sail to the Coast of GUINEA, is found good to write to the Director there that he will have to look out for those ships coming there, and proceed against the same // i.a.w. the instructions and order of the Assembly, already of the XIX previously given to him, and in conformity with the Charter and the further Placades issued by their Ho.Mo. there-against; and that the same shall also be reported to the skipper of the ship "St Peter" lying ready at Rotterdam.

Resolutions of Chamber Amsterdam. (not on record).

Resolutions of Chamber Zeeland. 1646. (WIC.oc.26).

Nothing of interest.

Resolutions of Participants Amsterdam. (WIC.oc.17).

Nothing of interest.

Resolutions of Participants Zeeland. (WIC.oc.37).

... ..  
30th October 1646.

Concerning the Coast of GUINEA, is understood that that shall remain closed in order to be traded by the Coy alone, on the same basis and order as so far practised. Is also understood that the trading of slaves before Ardre & Calbary shall be taken charge of for the account of the Coy, & to that end, at the first meeting in the Haag, suitable arrangements shall be made for the despatch of cargoes necessary thereto.

Extract from a document in, "Kol.Aanw. W.I.Comp. Aanw. Rademaker. 35."

Docket. Proposal for a good regulation in the navigation of Brazil; Angola, GUINEA, and St Thomé, by made by those of Amsterdam.

Proposal made the 20th October 1646, at Middelburg.

Deputies of the Chief Participants at Zeeland and Amsterdam.

Regarding the Coast of Guinea, (this is verbatim the same as that noted on the previous page, by the Zeeland Participants, on 30th October 1646.)

Copy letters from the XIX of the WIC. to the Gold Coast. 1646.  
(Letter Book. WIC.oc.10)

- (1) To the Director,  
van der WEL, on the North Coast of Africa. The 21st, & postscript dated 25th December July 1646.

Honoured &c,

Our last to the late Director, Jacob Ruychaver, was dated 6th July 1645, since which have departed from here the ship "Haerlem", from Amsterdam, on the 2nd December, and the ship "St Pieter" from the Maase, on the 9th May last; but we could not write by them because this Assembly has not met since the previous October. Meanwhile have successively come to our hands the letters sent hither from there by the ship "Zeelandia", which, "God betert", was wrecked (verongelukt) under England on the way home from ~~Engia~~ Brazil, and those which have now lately been brought over to us by Director Ruychaver himself; from all of which we have seen and understood the situation, and the requirements of the trade there on the Coast. Upon which we have found good, by the opportunity of the ship "Eendracht", from this Chamber, which is lying ready to ~~seil~~ depart thither with a cargo, within a day or two, shortly to reply to the principal points in the aforesaid letter; and further to add that which this Assembly finds good to write to YH. besides.

Firstly we have to congratulate YH. upon the appointment to the charge over our affairs and business there on the Coast, and the Island St Thomé, in the confidence that YH. will so quit and exert yourself and be careful and vigilant in the aforesaid Direction, that the Company's service and profit, and YH's praise and honour shall thereby increase.

And as we can well understand that nothing can be done by YH. in those parts, however great your desire and zeal might be, unless you are supplied from here with the proper merchandise in quantity and in due time, we have earnestly requested and admonished the respective members, each in his turn, to attend to the preparation and despatch of a cargo of f.180,000 at the precise time, in accordance with the order drawn up; which they have also undertaken to do and, as stated before, the ship "St Pieter" sailed at the beginning of May last, and the present one from Zealand is now about to follow. The Chambers of Amsterdam and Groningen, whose turn it now is to equip at intervals of three months (van drie tot drie maanden) will each also have a ~~ship~~ ready and effectively despatch a ship and cargo; and they and all the Chambers will in future,

in forming the cargoes, regulate themselves precisely according to the Formulas that YH. will please to send us from there by every opportunity.

It has been painful and vexatious to us to hear of the increase of the trade of the English, and we must acknowledge also that the cause of it mostly comes from the fact that the equipping thither from here has not been pursued as it ought. Nevertheless it is also now and then without the fault of the Chambers, who now, for some time past, have been so overburdened with sending assistance to Brazil, and the funds ~~(thereby)~~ thereby exhausted, that they have also not been able to avoid, now and then, availing themselves of that which came to their hands and was otherwise destined for the supply of the GUINEA cargoes; but as the instructions ~~(with which we are)~~ from this our Assembly are principally directed ~~(to the effect)~~ to devising means and a permanent basis whereby both the one and the other will be able to be properly assisted ~~(and supplied)~~ and supplied, we hope that the aforementioned inconveniences will not occur again in the future, but that the proceeds of the trade from there will ~~again be employed~~ <sup>again, either</sup> and that, precisely to the required cargoes and necessities.

Meanwhile we will commend to YH. the care and foresight to oppose the encroachment of the foreign traders as much and in such a manner as is possible and practicable, either by attracting and accustoming the ACANISTS to the Castle De Mina, or by altering the Price List (Marckt brief) on the arrival of the English or foreign traders, at the aforesaid Castle alone without (doing so) also at the other small places, as had been arranged, so Mr Ruychaver reports to us, before his departure; who also reports to us that it had been found good to abandon the port of CORMANTJUN (because the inhabitants there incline more to the English than to us) which causes us some objection and scruple, as the English will now have a better opportunity to establish themselves there. Nevertheless, as stated above, we will, regarding this, rely upon YH to do therein, according to opportunity and circumstances, as you shall think advisable for the best service and profit of the Company. We recommend only the good treatment and allurements (aanhaling) of the ACANISTS, as much as can be allowed, especially the new ones out of the village AQUEMA (Akin?) ~~in order not to alienate van den Acoery te becomen!~~; and about the changing of the Price List, ~~to~~ nevertheless to maintain that order and oversight as we have written about in more detail to YH's predecessor.

And likewise, as we are very tender (tear) entirely to abandon any trading place (where, although it gives no return, yet the costs of occupation would not mount up too high), in order not, thereby, to make room for the foreigners, so

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also we find objection to diminishing the garrisons too much at any of the most important places where there are fortifications, such as ACHYN which, it is recommended by Mr Ruychaver, could be guarded by 8-10 men. The reasons that persuade us are because, at present, the Portuguese have nearly everywhere "~~gehandeert sich~~" against the Company, and have sufficiently given notice that their intention is to bring everything again under Portugal, such as it was before the founding of this Company, and have "geuytert" first in the Maranhon, and now, "God Betert" in Brazil, where they with treachery and coercion have already brought under their force ~~the whole~~ the whole southern part from the Recyffo as far as to Selregippe del Rey, and have so occupied by land and blockaded the Recyffo, Tamarica, Paraiba and Rôo Grande, that on a serious misfortune, which God forbid, to our assistance that sailed thither in May last, the same would run into great peril of falling into their hands; as we do not doubt but that YH. will already have heard of this execrable and accursed revolt (as the ambassador of their King here himself calls it), and will have taken the occasion to be well on your guard, and not to trust in the least that nation, whether among our subjects (geseten) who have taken the oath of allegiance or in whatever situation the same are, but hold suspect all their actions just as of open enemies. And therefore (although economy (menagie) must in all respects be borne in mind), yet at first not to enter upon the reduction of any garrison, but with scruple; more especially because we learn from the report of Mr Ruychaver that there in the Bight, and about the Island Principe, they are keeping such a "geswier" and swarm of Portuguese yachts and vessels which correspond with the late Governor, Laurens Sipero, and the inhabitants of St Thomé, and without the knowledge of the Captain Commandant are able to trade ~~(handelen)~~ here and there behind the Island, and to play their "personagie"; like as, inter alia, the General Ruychaver informs us of a frigate which had been at St Thomé last year, and by again despatched by the aforesaid late Governor and the inhabitants there, with 8 pieces of cannon, ammunition of war and soldiers to the Island Principe, in order, as they afterwards said, to go on therewith to Rio Geneiro; but whether their intention was and is not to establish themselves with that ammunition and those men at the Island, and in due course and gradually to proceed from St Thomé thither, to make a new St Thomé there and to abandon the old, causes us considerable suspision. Indeed we can by no means be pleased with these interlopings and secret movements of the Portuguese there in our seas, and particularly those of our subjects (as we do not consider the inhabitants of St Thomé otherwise); but we have found good hereby to order YH. that you will not only instruct the Captain Commander at the Island St Thomé to keep

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a close and sharp look-out on the actions of the inhabitants there in receiving and despatching any foreign ships or yachts which address them at unauthorised (verkeerde) places; but that YH also give orders to all our ships yachts or vessels to attack and, if possible, capture the aforesaid Portuguese vessels wherever they find or encounter them, our reason for it being not only the open hostility done to us by the Portuguese in Brazil, Angola, Marangaon and St Thomé itself, in their first revolt, to the damage of many millions, but also that the last agreement with the inhabitants of St Thomé clearly provides that they shall deal with no other ships or nation but with those of the Company; which has been sufficiently violated by them in this. And in order so to have the Island St Thomé at once completely under our authority, we recommend YH to direct your enterprises in that direction in order, at some or other opportunity, the earlier the better, to seize (bij den kpp te vatten) the Carvalinas and others (who openly declare that at the opportunity they would hold and let themselves be employed as faithful subjects of the King of Portugal), and send them over by the first departing ship, or first keep them for a long time at the Castle DEL MINA. That YH shall also give orders for the further demolition and razing of the Portuguese Fort; and, in order to cut off from those remaining at St Thomé all opportunity of which they might take advantage for interloping, evil correspondence and hope with regard to us, that YH. will shall immediately <sup>into</sup> the situation of the Island Principe, and others that may be situated in the Bight and be occupied by the Portuguese or on their behalf, and, finding them to be of no strength so that YH, with the force you have at hand there, would be able to "importeren" the same for the Company, YH shall, at the first opportunity, secure yourself of those places; remove from there the Portuguese or those on their behalf who are in them, and send them hither. And, as regards the occupation and maintenance and "beneficieeringe" of the same islands and places, as we are not sufficiently acquainted with the situation of them but YH will be able to obtain the information, we rely upon YH's discretion. In any case we find it advisable, before other nations or the Portuguese should appear there, to maintain them for the Company; and we will expect from YH, by the first opportunity, advice and accurate description about the situation of the aforesaid islands.

It could also be of service, in order to prevent the inhabitants of St Thomé from interloping, also even with the English, that at each Ingenho <sup>about</sup> the aforesaid landing-places, two of our men be placed, like as Mr Ruychaver reports to us the Portuguese had declared to him they would allow the same ('tselfe te mogen lijden); but these men ought not to be of the worst, ~~and of the worst~~, but those who, by giving

the least suspicion, will be able to watch the actions of the Portuguese and give advice thereof to the Captn Commandant, for which purpose they ought to be able to read and write, in order to keep a Journal; for which YH will please give orders, the sooner the better.

Of the Island Principe, it is also reported to us that in November last a Castilian yacht had been there with the intention, after some trading, to return there and to establish a fortification; upon which an attempt was made by our men with the Portuguese at St Thomé, and the yacht "Nieuw Enchuysen", sent there to see if they could capture it. What ensued hereon we must await, but we see from this that we shall have take that island into consideration, for if the Castille or Portugal came to establish themselves there, it would come greatly in our way. We must therefore think over it betimes now the opportunity has been given us by Portugal.

The trade in the Blacks, at the respective places under YH's Direction, ought to be maintained in ~~very~~ every way, and the traded slaves firstly brought nowhere else but to St Thomé, for which YH will lack no means as now the cargoes from the respective Chambers are following, complete in due time.

Nevertheless shall be continued in the sending, by each ship, of a cargo for the Island St Thomé according to the requirements of the inhabitants, like as also is going by the present ship, and what discrepancy there is in it from the new Formula will be supplied at the next opportunity; which, as also the aforesaid slaves, YH will have traded there against sugar, at the best possible price, nevertheless taking regard that the inhabitants are able to subsist and have no cause of complaint; the more so as they show themselves otherwise willing to trade all their ~~egg~~ sugar to the Company by way of contract. Therefore if they have more sugar than the cargo and the slaves brought there amount to, YH. can give orders to take over the same from them at a certain price, provided they are paid for the same with the following cargo, or with bills on people in this country. And as regards erecting a certain warehouse in the town at St Thomé for the storage of the sugar, which Mr Ruychaver reports to us could be done for a small sum, we will send YH. our resolution by the next opportunity.

The large boat, to serve for the speedy lading of ships, will be provided by the Chamber of Amsterdam, which is doing the next equipage thither.

And in order to serve the inhabitants with better kinds of sugar, we shall write to Brazil by the first opportunity,

the revolt being checked as we hope will happen on the arrival of the succour sent by us, to see whether they can make any quantity there, and then send it from there to St Thomé.

Coming to particular matters, we say firstly that we have found the return cargoes of both the "Eendrachts" to be in conformity with the bills of lading.

Only a certain parcel of 8796 lb tusks, traded since (sic meaning before?) YH's Direction, in Rio de Rey, Cameronis and Gabon we may well allow (lijden) be sent over here at once (met eenen); the neglect of which, although done without YH's fault and by order of Mr Ruychaver, we nevertheless must admonish you, in order that in future no return cargoes which are ready at the departure of ships be kept there in order plaats te bergen; especially not for such bad reasons as those which were noted in YH's accounts: which could nevertheless have been done and we could, meantime have availed ourselves of the return cargo.

-The mistake in some of the cargoes from N. Holland.--. ...

The contraband goods found in the aforesaid ship, it appears to us, ought not to have been released on the simple statement of seamen; and if it was done because those goods had been allowed by the Chamber from which the ship sailed, we do not know why the owners now receive back the goods before having to satisfy the Fiscal. In future YH will please not restore again any goods unless it appears by letter or document from the Directors of the Chamber from which the ship sails that the one or the other has been allowed to take something with him, and if this does not appear, to adjudicate and "beneficieren" the same goods, ~~only~~ as is proper, only keeping separate account thereof. But if a permission appears, YH can comply with it such order, but nevertheless transmit the same order or a copy of it to us.

We very gladly learn that better gold is now coming down, and as the careful supervision of it and confiscation of the adulterated is the cause of it, YH will please to continue in the supervision, otherwise the frauds will break at once break out again.

The recruitment of soldiers for GUINÉE and St Thomé, for sending 50 by each ship (as has been followed with "St Pieter" only that, through scarcity of soldiers, 23 seamen were included) we shall continue as yet, although the Chamber Zee-land is afraid that it will not be able to provide the aforesaid number, whether soldiers or sailors, in this present scarcity of men. But what is lacking in it can be supplied by the next and we shall take care to engage as many "schildegasten" from time to time as is possible for us.

A "roey fregatte", in place of the yacht "Reaal" is being sent by the Chamber of Amsterdam, by their ship "Haerlem".

As regards the victuals, the Chambers will take care in future that fresh and good are always sent; and it appears to us that the issue of one engel gold per week in place thereof is too much. Nevertheless YH must use the store according to situation and state, and in that connection, consider whether the victuals cannot be made to last longer by the Company's own men, by catching fish or sowing and planting crops, which we would be glad to hear was receiving YH's attention.

- The mistakes about the medicines - ... ..

A good pastor the members have undertaken to provide do their best to provide, who we hope will follow by the next ship.

"tWaren van Medenblijck" which YH is expecting, departed from here for Brazil in May last, and according to orders from the Chamber of North Holland, will sail from there to YH's Direction.

About the Island St Thomé, of which we have before spoken in more detail, we also observe from the aforementioned report of the late Director Ruychaver that the men could be issued the same ration as is observed in the manner hitherto observed on the Coast of Guinea, the half, "beter coop", as now is done in victuals, or in Guinea, in gold. On this we have found good to instruct YH to have trial made of it at the first opportunity, having them given the value of four gulden in merchandise in order to barter it to the people for victuals. We will nevertheless take care that the Store is and remains provided with bread and salt for a suitable period.

We have observed broils between the Chiefs on the Island St Thomé, namely the Captain-Commandant Mulder, and Captn Lourens Jacobsen and as we consider it necessary to keep a competent person in the military on that island besides the Captn-Commndt, in order, in case of the latter's death, to keep matters in order and we have good testimony about L Jacobsz, YH will endeavour to remove those misunderstandings and let L Jacobsz continue in his service.

- But likewise, as the trade on that island is increasing daily, and at present everything yet depends solely upon C. Jansz Hasenberch from whom we have not so far received the greatest satisfaction, YH will please to make further enquiries about his capacity and competence and further dispose thereon according to finding, as shall be proper for the service of the Coy. without respect or simulation.

We are surprised at the great mortality among the negroes brought by the yacht Fortuyn from the Bight to St Thomé, vizt, 36 out of 196, especially having regard to the short distance; but however that may be, we admit that we are not without suspicions about it, that the remedy, whether it was deaths actually, or fraud, must be thought of in

every way. Regarding fraud, YH will please to provide for it in a special article in the skippers' instructions.

The above is as much as we have found good to instruct you upon from the aforementioned report of Mr Ruychaver. We will now come to reply to YH's letter of 21st December 1645, the contents of which we find to have been for the most part sufficiently answered in what is noted above, so there remain only a few points to say to it.

As regards the victuals in the ships going thither, where the skippers "hun personagie mede weten te speelen" and refuse YH them, you may henceforth rely upon the lists, both for the ship and the shore, which we shall send you in the sealed letters, and assure yourself that nothing from either of them will be touched or used; from which then you can always make sure of what the ships have consumed on the way or will still have need of for the further voyage either by way of Brazil or from Guinea, and if necessary take off the rest.

We learn with pleasure that Hendrick CAARLOF is vigilant in the charge placed upon him and is watchful of our service, and you will please encourage him more and more in it and give him such help that he may find the less opposition in his service, and that "Chineserie" may entirely come to an end; otherwise we find how it all happens very suspiciously here and that much is still done therein; likewise as we trust will have been detected there in the ship "St Peter" from the Maase and in this regard no less attention paid; but, as we have said before, restitution must not be done so easily ~~aga~~ any more.

We are glad to see that YH so pertinently advises us of the arrival and the trade of the English there on the Coast, against which we know of no other means than to despatch the cargoes required and decided upon precisely up to time and complete; but if we come to hear anything of their fitting out and buying up of cargoes here in this country we shall not fail to notify YH on opportunity, in order to be on your guard ~~(wapacht, te houden)~~ against it.

The obstacle urged by YH about the taking off ~~(vanden)~~ of the inhabitants of this country out of the ships of foreign nations, we have not found to be of such consideration as to alter anything in the orders previously given by us, but we refer you again to the same and that you will have intrepidly to follow the placade of their Ho. Mo., sent herewith, in all respects.

The small number of competent and experienced persons to look after the trade there has been taken into such careful consideration by us that we have seriously admonished the members in the future to look out for the same, by whom you can be served as is proper.

We approve the promotions and transfers of some persons made by YH there, but, in future, as regards promotions,

you will regulate yourself precisely in accordance with the "Articul<sup>l</sup> Brief", or place the same at our disposal.

Meantime, we have also perceived, with approval, the new order devised by YH for keeping the books and accounts from the beginning of your administration, on which you will please often keep an eye, so that everything is put clearly, and send us a copy of them every year precisely, which we shall also expect of the monthly pay books; but as we find that the accounts, namely of the monthly pay, on the Coast there are only signed by the factor (coopman) or clerk (commis) who keep those books, this is also our order that henceforth no account of a person under your Direction and authorised by YH will be accepted unless it has been inspected and signed by you, as is done in Brazil by the High Councillors.

The quantity of 600 lb. powder required by you by each ship we think rather much, seeing that there can or ought to be little consumption; also at the previous Assembly only up to 100 lb. was agreed upon; nevertheless, we will increase it somewhat. But in case you found yourself in need of it you can make use of a good supply from the arriving ships, especially when they go home from there by way of Brazil, as they can then get their requirements out of the magazine. Economy and the forbidding of salutes and all unnecessary consumption is highly recommended to YH.

Coming back to St Thomé, we have still this to say, that in case you have to send away the Carvalios and other persons in subordination, consideration ought immediately to be given to the mills of the Misericordia, and otherwise, on that island that have fallen to the Company by the conquest of the same. You will have to enquire closely into everything and advise us of your findings.

The broils, incited from the side of the Captain-Commandant, over the placing of that island under the direction of your district we have gladly seen are now quieted; likewise Mr Mulder also writes us that henceforth he will be agreeable to it, the letter herewith, that he will give effect to YH's orders on that island.

We have further seen the request in your letter about the salary to be received by you in your present charge, and have found good to fix the same at the sum of f.300. a month, as your predecessor, Mr Ruychaver received. The other part of the request, about the lime juice, is still held up.

And as regards the proposal to go once a year to the island St Thomé to give the necessary orders there on the Company's business there, we have found good to leave to your discretion: we will only recommend you not to leave the Coast but for important reasons and in the most convenient season.

Regarding the ships, which way they will have to return hither in future, our resolution is that when there are two together and <sup>they</sup> can obtain their full loadings at St Thomé, they

may be sent "<sup>direct</sup>advoiceture" from there hither (without crossing to Brazil), but if only one ship it must go to Brazil, according to previous order, so as to be able to leave in company of other ships.

The good testimony which you give of the Vaandrigh causes us to approve the improvement made; but not to give any "consequentie" as the Articul Brief says that no improvement of pay may be granted to any one without promotion or alteration of charge. We have found good to change his title and henceforth to let him be called the Commander of the Soldiers.

You will please no more to make the allocation of the gold, tusks, or any other return cargoes from there, but to consign those goods, all and everytime, to the Assembly of the XIX.

(no signatures)

P.S. What has been said here before about lime juice, we have since "geresumeert", and chiefly considered that that matter is now of another character than when the same was first permitted to the Directors of the Coast, because the ships at that time <sup>the</sup> (ten naasten bij) came over empty, and now they obtain their loadings of sugar at St Thomé <sup>and</sup> in Brazil, so that the Company is considerably prejudiced by the bringing over of the lime juice. Nevertheless, in order to encourage you, we have allowed you to send over annually the quantity of 60 firkons (varckens) or half "leggers", to be divided, according to old custom, the half for us, the other half for you.

We have also arranged for the payment of your account of f.1,210: 8 strs. earned by you as Fiscal, and the amount will be settled by the Amsterdam Chamber.

The High and Secret Council of Brazil has now, on two occasions, opened the gold chest there and taken out a good parcel of gold, which displeases us, and we have therefore found good to give orders to Brazil in future to leave those chests intact. Nevertheless, you will besides order the skippers that on coming to Brazil, and being requested to hand over the chest, to refuse this; and if they are however compelled to do so, that they make a record (acte nemen) of their previous refusal and "devoiren".



(2).

To the Director  
van der WEL.

The 13th December 1646. In Den Hage.

Honoured etc,

Yours dated 1st June 1646, per ship "Haerlem", came to us on 14th inst. ... We learn with regret from it of the unhealthiness which has befallen our officers and soldiers there, but for the supply of factors and particularly of deceased soldiers and sailors there is going a good recruitment; besides this, the ship from Groningen, seconding the recruitment from Zeeland, the ship "Eendracht" will come to you by this opportunity. We wish we had received the advice somewhat earlier, we would then have resorted to all possible means to have completely supplied the deficiency represented by you, which we intend to do by the next ship in turn.

Meantime we recommend you to use every exertion to keep the Blacks devoted and to resort to all means imaginable that the English may be prevented in their design and that they cannot make any lodges in the river of Benyn before Arbo, as we see from your letter that you are afraid of. For we are assured that where the English take root, it comes to refound (redunderen) to the considerable injury of the Company's trade, as they are only out to make the Company's traders suspect and small, and themselves great with the Blacks; which must be pursued by our people with the same like "minees"; wherefore we commend the same to your vigilance.

As regards your complaints that some sorts of cargo are too bad and some too small or are not sent, the scarcity of small vessels, as also the necessaries required for the repair of the warehouses, as also ships' carpenters and other necessary "trein" persons, we are at present seriously engaged about it to make good arrangements for everything & to bring both the Coast of Guinea and the annexed factories from SERA Lions to CAPE DE LOS, and the Island St Thomé on a better and regular footing of trade in the future, so that by a regular trade we shall be able to prevail over our competitors and to draw the Blacks to the service of the Company and to the injury of those opposed to us; and to restore the trade to prosperity, whereby everything, both trade and the former lax equipment, shall be made vigorous again, and the Blacks more and more encouraged to bring down their gold from their country: for which discretion and good correspondence gives great opportunity (occassie).

To the good quality of lijnwaten, sheets, and carpets regard will be taken in the future and your factories placed beyond complaint, so that the English may be prevented from plucking the fruits which we consider should best come to us.

The difficulties which you advise us about the slave trade, because of the present bad situation in Brazil, we will hope that the succour already sent and to be sent will forestall your fears, and that Brazil will shortly take more slaves than it has done for some time. Wherefore we recommend you to keep the slave trade in train, and to send the bartered slaves to St Thomé, and <sup>those</sup> which might remain unsold might be kept there or at some other island till further opportunity, in order not, in course of time, to be deprived of them by foreigners; for which we shall by every opportunity continue to supply you with the merchandise necessary for that trade, so that not only St Thomé may be supplied with its competent number, but Brazil also and elsewhere will profit by it; but we understand that St Thomé prefers to have Ardra and Calbary slaves in their service. We judge that that request will serve to guide you not to slacken in the slave trade, but in the first place to keep it in train, and afterwards, on a change in Brazil, to cultivate it more and more, which the advices both from here and from Brazil will be able further to direct you.

-Office necessaries and medicines are being sent by this ship and others will be sent, care and care will be taken that there is no reason for complaint in this.-

As regards St Thomé, and the situation there, we understand with great displeasure that Commander Mulder, according to your letter, behaves so familiarly with that perfidious nation, the Portuguese. We are glad to see that you have admonished him not to trust them, because they are not to be trusted as all their actions in both Brazil and Angola prove. We do not doubt that these examples will teach everyone to suspect them, which we also hereby charge Commander Mulder, so that our cherished conquests may not come into any danger through thoughtlessness and too much confidence.

We are here informed for certain that one, Manuel Fernandes, residing at Lisboa, was lying there ready to depart from there with his ship, a "pynas", to the Island St Thomé in order to take in his cargo of sugar from the inhabitants some 5-6 miles from the town of St Thomé, contrary to the accord and to the privilege (~~to be granted~~) which pertains to the Company from it. Moreover, as we are also afraid that this and such-like proceedings of the Portuguese not only give opportunity to give information (~~and to~~) and to make the inhabitants of the island, who are now reasonably quiet, restless again and to bring them to revolt, we therefore expressly command you, as we also hereby charge Commander Mulder, that you will have this ship and such-like

ships very carefully watched for, and to keep any ship or yachts in order to pursue and seize that ship and to send her to Brazil, so that the proper proceedings may be taken against her there; which order is not given in order to diminish your jurisdiction but because of the convenience of the voyage and other reasons, based on the circumstances of these times.

It appears to us that Commander Mulder is somewhat displeased about the order given him by us to act under your government, but we do not doubt that he will learn from your discreet orders to acquit himself of his duty and service of the Company, and obey them accordingly, which we expect from him.

- The ship "Eendracht" from Zeeland has already been dispatched with a good cargo to that Island, as also a ship from Groningen.-

- By the next opportunity further arrangements will also be made to strengthen the garrisons there and provide the necessaries asked for for trade victuals and ammunition.-

- They will endeavour and have always kept in view, to persuade the old servants to serve on the Coast and at St Thomé.-

- They understand from Commander Mulder that he would be able to obtain there a good supply of beads, pigs, and "farinha", which we consider would be serviceable for those in Brazil and in Guinea; for we would see nothing better than that our conquests could supply each other with what is necessary. We will give this also into consideration at Brazil and recommend the trial.-

(no signatures)

(3) To the Director on Hage, the 15th December 1646.  
the Coast of Guinea.

Honoured, etc,

After we had closed and dispatched our accompanying letter of the 13th instant we have resolved for various weighty reasons, to instruct you that in future and till further orders you will send the ships from Guinea to the Island St Thomé with such a quantity of gold as shall be ready from time to time in order to take in as much sugar as can be obtained there, with orders that those ships, whether they are one or two in number and whether there is cargo at that island or not, shall come hither, "ad~~re~~fecture" without sailing to Brazil, as has been done hitherto; and our instruction to you on 21st July last is altered and cancelled.

The sergeant at Fort Nassau has requested us by letter sent herewith, to be promoted to the vacant place of Vaandrich; which moves us to authorise you, on this occasion and without any right to claim it in future, to fill that place there; and in doing so, to pay special regard to that sergeant's claims.

(no signatures)

Letters from the Gold Coast to the XIX. WIC. (WIC.o.c.11).

(1) Copy letter, unsigned (van der Wel) to the XIX. WIC.  
2nd April 1646.

Honourable, Honoured, Worshipful, Wise, Prudent, Very Discreet  
Sirs,

Honourable Sirs,

Our last letter to YHH was 21st December last, when the Hon. Mr Jacob Ruychaver departed with the ships "Eendracht" of Amsterdam and of Enchuijsen, copy of which you will find in the annexures; which ships' return cargoes consisted in Mk.1,429:6:12 eng. gold and 3,158 lb. elephants tusks for the general account; besides Mk.11:7:2½ eng. gold, 20,068½ lb. tusks, and 213,035 lb. grain, consigned to the Amsterdam Chamber for the account of their yacht "Postpaert".

These ships sailed with the intention of calling at the Island St Thomé and to take everything off that served for return cargo; where, according to advice received by the yacht "Visscher", they shipped 22,439½ Aroben sugar (Note. "Arroba", arobe, a weight of thirty pounds in Portugal: Michaelis, Port-Eng. Dictionary), and so left there on 11th February in hopes of arriving at Brazil at a suitable time to sail home with the first-going fleet. God Almighty grant that we may hear that everything has duly come to hand!

And as this opportunity again offers, we have not failed to make report how things have gone on the Coast since the departure of the last ships. We therefore begin from where we left off in our last, namely that we did not yet know what the English ship had brought (on which Mr Branton had been super-cargo and had died on the voyage out), which arrived before CORMANTIJN on 20th December. But we afterwards understood that she had not brought the least Coast cargo, but some timber, stone, and lime for the use of the English Fort, without however being of the same Company/~~for~~<sup>for</sup> which Mr MOLGRAVE comes. The intention of this ship's voyage was to sail with her attendant chaloup to Calbary to see to trading a quantity of slaves there, and to bring them to Barbadoes to retail them for cotton, indigo, or sugar; about which she departed from CORMANTIJN on 24th December. Since then, various such ships and yachts have appeared here from England and Barbadoes to drive that slave trade, none of which brought any Coast cargoes of value; which is extremely surprising; so that the Company suffers no damage in that respect, but they extremely seek to trade tusks on the Qua Qua Coast and the Bight, which our yachts, sent there afterwards, lose.

With reference to this matter, we are concerned how the English make their voyages as before stated, and we cannot omit to point out to YHH that we ought to be able to try & penetrate into th~~is~~ trade (handeling), with a small ship of 120-130 tons (last), to be sent hither from home full of a coast cargo, and after having brought it to us, to be dispatched on that voyage, when it could be relied on to make a good voyage for the Company, if it did not suffer too much mortality among the slaves; for the cargo would not cost more than f.4,000. which we already have here for the number of 300 slaves. I have, on various occasions, been informed and also, out of curiosity, asked the English traders how they retail their slaves there, who have declared to me, and they mostly all agreed with each other, that for each slave they obtain 120 lb. indigo or 2,000 lb. cotton, or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  1,600 to 1,800 lb. tobacco. In the event of YHH being pleased to resolve upon this, the sooner the better, as I fear we shall get swallowed up (vercroopt) in beans, which undoubtedly lie here spoiling; because they have need of so few slaves at St Thomé and in these times the slave trade at Brazil may easily be renounced (afgeswerden); but, as yet, we shall send some to Brazil as we have the opportunity. The voyage to Barbadoes could, I consider, be done in 10-11 months. Factors who have knowledge of indigo, sugar and cotton ought to come with that small ship. The slaves could also be transported to New Netherlands.

From one of the aforementioned slavers I have bought two pipes of Madeira wine because we had no wine at all for the sick and others on the Coast, and paid Mk.1: 02:2: eng.4., which we hope YHH will not take amiss, as the sick always need it. As also for the payment of the yachts which rove in the Bight, and for other needs, and for extraordinary expenses which are made on the change in the government, and which must still occur, I have had to make myself indebted to the General Account for Mk.30. gold, of which already about Mk.12. has been paid out to the King and ACANIST Cabeseros, and other necessary payments. We hope YHH will approve this, which we try to keep down as much as possible. The importunity which the Blacks daily employ in begging from us is too great; but if we do not open our hands according to their good pleasure they make so bold as to say that they will seek other friends, thereby denoting the foreign nations, with whom they will to spend their gold. For these and other reasons we considerations, we are obliged to take the way of present-giving.

What further concerns the situation and state of the English here, it is such that most of the cargo that Mr MOL-GRAVE brought to CORMANTIJN on 30th November last has re-

realised a reasonable profit for his masters, except his lijwaeten and boatmens' knives. He has, besides us, continually sold his lijwaten a 136 a pr bende; the boatman's knives at 24 doz, where we have given the same at 32 doz. per bende, but would sell no sheets except the Blacks also took boatman's knives at that price, of which we were devoid. It has tended greatly to their advantage that the ship "Haerlem" that we were then expecting daily, stayed away so long, otherwise they would have got very much into a dilemma, as Mr Yrlant's cargo did; and if YHH could bring about that 3 or 4 of their cargoes consequetively did not produce much it would cause them very much discouragement, whereas now, having recovered their breath with profits, they will not let it stop. I have had Mr MOLGRAVE, being present here, given notice (insinueren) that if he had any order from YHH for the collectioh of outstanding debts at St Thomé, he should arrange to produce the papers (bescheyden) about it here, so that I could make the proper arrangements. Mr Molgrave did not appear here, but sent his Pastor (Predikant) and a Quartermaster, who spoke reasonable German in order to learn my intention; but after sharp enquiry to the purpose, I found he had no written order, but could observe that the intention was to call at St Thomé on the voyage to England; but I gave them warning that if he comes there in that regard he will not receive them, for I do not consider it good, in such times, that many English come to St Thomé since the revolt in Brazil broke out and will develop more seriously, as I believe is the fact. How his intentions will proceed remains to be seen.

After long delay and daily looking out for a new ship, there arrived on 28th January last before d'El MYNA the ship "Haerlem" from Amsterdam, without any letters from YHH, which brought a cargo, as we find from the two several invoices come with her, to the value of f.144,148:6:8; being surprised that such large ships bring so little, as the formulas ~~from~~ sent from here were nevertheless made up to f.1,200 f.180,000. The large "gesloopte" chaloup, which comes with her and falls to the further cost of this cargo, makes the whole consignment (uitgeef) amount to f.153,064:3:-

Regarding the condition of the merchandise received by that ship, we find it is such that praise must be given to the Amsterdam Chamber, especially the copper work, beads, tin and others, which has been dispatched at a good price in great quantity. But the sheets so bad as never before; the lijwaet only reasonable; the iron too light and unequal in length; the saijen (serges) are well made and "geveruit dan" the large quantity in third parts and quarters, and so much ought not to be sent in future (although I believe they cost somewhat less than the whole parts) as the Blacks

dislike (tegen stacke) them very much, and give good reason for it, for in the interior the same are measured out in yards (met elle) and through the shortness of the pieces the owners assemble many remnants; complaints which tend to injury. In the present price list (markt brief) they stand at 2 oz.; 8 engels., but in the month of February some appear in the accounts at 2 oz. 4 engels. for we thought to bring the Blacks to receive half lijwaet and half saijen, to which they would not agree as a great quantity of lijwaet remains unsold in the interior (in't land) and they therefore begged me that they might buy the saijen <sup>alone</sup> at 2 oz. 8 eng., which we afterwards allowed them, since the saijen is a merchandise not to be kept too long because it is very liable to be ruined if good care be not taken in the drying at home; to which YHH will please to give attention. In the yacht "Postpaert" s cargo about six pieces were spoiled for the reason stated.

When, with the arrival of the aforesaid cargo, we found ourselves reasonably supplied, and some reliable Blacks made known to us what assortment the rival (partye) was devoid of in the cargoes he had had, and that his largest remainder would consist of lijwaet, 5-600 iron rods and two cases saijen, we therefore thought good for the Company's benefit, to withdraw the price list (markt) so that we should not undersell this costly cargo against the little that that party has; but we are confident that through inducement (inductie) of the English, the Blacks are partly holding up their gold, as they spread it about that they are daily expecting a ship & yacht and then will abundantly undersell again, which causes some over which ~~eenige beachtumpheyt laet hun goud te besteeden~~. The Blacks greatly complain that there is so little demand for the goods in the interior, which in these times comes very ill with regard to the sober return cargo that would have fallen with the ship "Haerlem" if she had departed from here on 1st April in order to look out for the second fleet in Brazil, because the accounts must have been closed in the middle of March. But <sup>only</sup> we ~~had~~ about Mk. 550. in the chest, of which Mk. 53:7:4<sup>1</sup> engels. paid to the yacht "Postpaert" s residue account according to estimate, over and above the monthly pay and the Mk. 30 taken out by me as before stated. About this a resolution was taken to hold up the ship "Haerlem" until the third going fleet departs from Brazil, on the consideration that if we let her go now, too long a time would elapse before we again shall again make a return cargo, for the following ships will not be able to depart from Brazil earlier than with the first fleet in the coming year 1647. Moreover, we are not yet ~~well~~ assured whether it is advisable to let the ships pass by way of Brazil and in course of time and with the arrival of the ship

*They are cautious about spending their gold*

"Rotterdam", we hope to get orders how to act for the best. Meantime we are waiting for better receipts for the Company's profit.

That I again touch on the point of the merchandise and trade, YHH will please understand that the party sought to wrest the receipt of gold from us as his lijwaet daily continued at 130 a per bende and the iron at 25 engels; about which the Blacks trouble us a great deal that we do not follow him, which we do not think in the least desirable, and we are pleased if he continues so. I trust he will depart ere long.

We have paid careful attention to all the remaining cargoes entrusted to us and have found that the Chamber of Enchuisen has last brought to us various cases with curved-pointed boatman's knives which are not wanted at all, which therefore ought not to be sent after this. "De differentie in Slesinger of Inlantse tycten en geeft niet dat van d'eene Soort als d'andere meer comt, derhalve met hollantse cont erenren, an alhoewel dat duyr comen te staen tot geen hoger prys als vier engels te(?) vercoopen en daerbij sober gesh(?)" Also so well supplied that we shall require none in 2-3 years.

Daeronder veel onwillige gestreepen, maer somwijlen 100 P. geruyte te senden is dienstich voor d'bocht daer anders geen begeert. De Leytse deeckens en is niet practicabel dierder te vertieren als 4 engels t' P. is een coopmanschap die datelijck aen de man moet of d'mot useckty se soo schade-loos dat dan groote verliesen baert. Ick soude wel seggen van geen meer te senden dan is noodich om d'yerse deeckens die d'partye in't gemeen mede brenft te doen stutten, Grootte en cleine annebaes gelieve U.Ed. voor dat om schryven niet laten toecomen, d'wyl met quantiteyt sijn beset. De turkse tapiyten can U.Ed voor een geruyten tijt verschoonen vermits ten uitersten somwijl t'P. voor een ons wert vercocht. Hooppe d'Swarten met turxe carpetten sullen laten vernoezen.

Alle de sortering van Corael wercken die wij vddgens formulier enjzen gelieft U.Ed. doch in't tyts te coopen op day geen vreedme natie voor U.Ed. gereet syn, want schynen nu wel gewilt en tot een goede prijse d'jongste vercocht, d'monsters soo als behooren te wesen sal U.Ed onder de schipper Thomas Hendrix in een toegesegelt sackie vinden doch geen violet gestreep quispelz: noch violette Olivetten t'sy hoe goede koop cont crygen door dien dees sortering geheel in't voet sant leggen.

De staven ijsers met Enchuisen ontvangen worden bevonden

niet meer als 29 P. in't duysent te mogen halen, en die nu met Haerlem gecregen stijf 33 P. welk verschil is groot maar de dienstichste syn 31 P. op dat W. Ed iser door de Swarten in reputatie mach blijven t'geen tot dus lang door de deucht is geweest alhoewel t'Engelse swaerder als U. Ed's valt.

*[margin]* The traders are beginning so to observe the quality and the difference between the English and Holland (sayen) een groote weersin crygen aangesien d'onse f. 16. P. meer betalen niettemin vertrouwe de partye op yder P. soo veel advancement als de Compy, doch geen Engels toe te schicken is ons wensch.

The great quantity of Haerlemmer cloths which have come already and are still to be expected doet U. Ed aenschryven vermindert mogen werden, uit vreesse tot ons contentement en dasje te gebruiken d' Swarten een weersin sullen neemen, dan siende dat voort geraecken sullen ondertusschen tyt vinden meer te ontbieden het turcx stof is beter als voor desen hoop op die voet sal blijven te werden gemaect.

The sheepskins sent by the "Haerlem" we see cost much more than previously, therefore have been placed at 3 P. per engel in the price list (markt brief), but there is no demand for them being so damp and brackish that if the price be not reduced all will spoil and if YHH are pleased to send any more they must be dry to 20-30 dozen in order to make small gold bags of them, as these are dry damp and unsuitable.

The French lijwaeten the Hon gentlemen of Amsterdam write it is not their intention to send any more, because each a cost is groot higher than the slesiger. I should agree with this if the party brought none, but they must necessarily be continued and 500 P. sent by each ship, and that the more as the party begins to stick his tail up in a strange manner as I touch on here-after.

And so that we may come to the end of speaking about the merchandise I have still this to point out, that we have found a discrepancy in "Haerlem's" invoices regarding the sayen, as follows ... ..

The people of ACRA, since the departure of the ships, have <sup>allowed</sup> ~~submitte~~d themselves to request the English factor Thymen MOLGRAVE that he would employ a yacht in trading before CRAA, to which MOLGRAVE much listened, but as he had no yacht

but the one that had been dispatched to the Benvn, the matter had been postponed till further opportunity, and he told them that they must first get our nation away from there ~~(see above receipt)~~.

This report being written to me by factor J. Hogenhoeck, I have, by letter, ordered him to put before the "Commander" and Caboceros that it appeared strange to me that they went to work so improperly as they drew so much every month from the Company, and, moreover, it was directly contrary to the Agreement made with the Hon. Mr Ruychaver; with a threat that in the event of their allowing the English to settle ~~(see above)~~ at or there or to have a yacht there, we should remove the Company's goods, set fire to the Lodge, and evacuate the Port, as we have done at Cormantijn; which seems to have caused a fright among them, <sup>that</sup> as they promised not to bring <sup>in</sup> the English ~~in~~ ~~(see above)~~. But they complain ~~strongly~~ extremely that they are not traded with (gehandelt) as with the Blacks up here; for it has happened many times, for some years past that there has been a difference of 30 a 40 a Lywaet 10-12 lb. copper per Bende, f.16 on one p.

Say, many pounds beads, and 1-2 engels on one rod; waardoor <sup>whereby</sup> in the time of underselling nearly all the gold of Craa was cast into the hands of in tyt van claddinge meest alle 't gout van CRAA in de engelse the English <sup>speech</sup> & great bitterness aroused against us, as the handen wiert gesalcht(?), en een groote verbitteringe jegens <sup>speech</sup> account disclosed that gold that port yielded as in YHHS letters, you will support the ons verweete en alsoo den Staet openbaerde wat gout dito port <sup>Coast</sup> gaf en alsoo op U Ed. schryvens wat willen steunen de cust

26. *Sincerely heretofore a supply in 1646. merchandise then after having*  
 voortaan met ernst by de hant te nemen en van eespeenschappen  
*considered the matter in the Co's best interests - it is highly necessary - so the*  
 coopmanschappen versorgen, soo is nae de saecke ten beste  
*the Blacks do not proceed with their evil intention - to undersell there*  
 van de Comp. overwogen te hebben hooch nodich, op dat d'  
*as well as here, or at least so to arrange that it is not worth the while*  
 Swaerten met hun boos voorneemen niet voort en gaen soo wel  
*of the Blacks to view the cost of coming upwards by canoe. For if we*  
 daer als hier te cladden of ten minsten soo te stellen dat  
*can or so arrange that the ritual never receives the gold, that is*  
 het d'kosten die d'Swaerten met canoos moeten doen, niet  
*sufficient. At the port of CORMANTIJN, where there is no underselling,*  
 waert is op-waert aen te comen, want als wij dit te weech  
*does not yield more than 600 marks yearly, & if some were not*  
 brengen dat men altyt t' gout t'ontvangen de partye can  
*brought here from CRAA MOURE & FUTA, that port would not*  
 beletten soo is er genoeg gedaen, en dat Insonderht als er  
*be able to bear much expense. This would already have been*  
 geen claddinge en is voor waer d'poort van CORMANTIJN geeft  
*taken in hand by our predecessors if merchandise had not been lacking.*  
 s'jaers niet boven 600 Marc, en indien van CRAA MOURE en eenich  
 van FUTTU niet werde toegeb(racht?) ditto port soude  
 niet veel eesten onkosten connen veelen. Het soude van ons  
 voorsaeten al in't werk gestelt worden hebben indien aen  
 coopmanschappen niet had ontbrocken.

Further coming to the matter of the victuals that we have received by the ship "Haerlem", which YHH sent lately to provide the whole Coast in place of giving gold. To this we have not yet "ons gestelt", for I hope YHH have seen the little, especially "potspijs", Mr Ruychaver left with me, from which we have afterwards victualled the yachts "Fortuyb", "Dolphyn and "Reael" and as, "met lief" each comes back, they will stand with hands open. Dan siende dat met t'Rotterdammer meer becomen sullen t'schaffen aenvaerden, YHH begin to victual the ships sent hither for no longer than 9 months, namely 3 months for the soldiers coming over and 9 months for the crews, without nevertheless receiving anything for all who return home or must be brought to St Thomé, die wij soo date-lijck niet connen quyt geraecken" since often no yachts are at hand till now that 20 soldiers and one woman were transported to St Thomé. Also the "Haerlem" will not be able to complete the voyage within nine months. All which causes the victuals to diminish. Therefore we consider it highly necessary that the ships coming here be supplied with victuals

for a year so that a little can be taken out of each ship  
"tot vorige Intervallen".

We still observe this, that we issue to each soldier 10 lb. <sup>1899</sup>meat monthly, as this ought to be eaten being old, calculated at 6 stv. the lb. and with it 5 gulden in "caciaes" gold, more to the officers according to each one's rank; as YHH can see from the accompanying list; but to provide it entirely and to give the soldiers no gold will not come well here. Our request therefore is that YHH will please to <sup>follow</sup> the plan made in the calculation which you can see in the annexures. We do not doubt that we shall keep the <sup>men's</sup> health ~~the~~ healthier as this is not a country where beans and other hard potspys can be eaten, or it will cause sickness; and if ~~the men can trade no gold they cannot get the least refreshment, and so they sell everything which ought to be worn on the body and go about so disgracefully, as I understand they do at St Thomé; and also, we use the worst gold for the purpose, which otherwise would be sent to YHH.~~

The rye meal received by the ~~above~~ named ship we will try to consume and have bread baked of it; but it comes very inconvenient here as there are already two ovens, and we are obliged to keep the large chaloup expressly on-ly to sail to Chama for firewood which here has to be fetched with great labour, so that we <sup>shall</sup> ~~cannot~~ see that it will be much more convenient or profitable, if you will provide us with biscuit in future. And if you keep to the resolution to provide it, we must then keep at least a dozen slaves to fetch firewood for the soldiers, which now they must buy with gold.

The ship Haerlem brought here 85 eaters from which come off 47 soldiers, 1 factor, 2 assistants, 1 barber, the skipper, ~~the~~ mate, 3 boys 2 dead, and the cook who must always stay in the kitchen, total 59 "afgangers", so that 26 workmen remain, which, under correction, is too few to handle (regeren) such a ship, unload 40-50 boats, break and fetch ballast which demands heavy labour. We have received the large <sup>chaloup, skip</sup> but not a man to sail it. You will please to consider that we have no men here except those necessary for the yachts, and we cannot make sailors of the soldiers because of the scarcity. YHH will please in future ~~to~~ send not less than 50 sailors with each ship, and an upper and under mate, so that if one dies the other can take his place on the voyage home.

For the repair of the Castle and Forts we need what is in the accompanying list, and especially to roof with wood and tiles the ~~roof~~ former Church, where the merchandise now is, and also the soldiers' quarters; which all are so leaky that the merchandise cannot be preserved, nor the soldiers sleep

28.

1646.

dry. When last at Mouré we found that all ceilings and beam braces of the roofs required renewal as it is feared they will fall in. ...

The yacht Postpaert from Amsterdam arrived here on 5th March last from the Grain Coast & windward, with return cargo of 207504 lb. grain: 21056 lb. tusks: Mk. 19-2-8 gold, & Mk. 1-4-7 gold traded at Cape Mount by factor Geltboer; to which we have added Mk. 53-7-4 gold, the Postpaert's residue, all consigned to Chr. Amst. God grant a safe passage to this yacht that departs to-day. ...

[pepper]

On 15th March arrived yacht Visscher from St Thomé with Fiscal Hendrick Caerlofs, who handed me the accompanying report (not noted). ...

- The increase of pay from f.30 - f.40 p.m. to the factor on the yacht was granted by Mr Ruychaver. - ...

- Mr Mulder is now showing more competence in his letters, ...

~~At present the only vessel cleared to St. Thomas is the ...~~

- The yacht Realtje sent to Benyn river for return cargo, not yet returned. fears some disaster to her.- Further as to other yachts -.

- Inconclusion asks that his salary may be fixed, and considering the difficulties attached to the direction over St Thomé he does not doubt they will treat him in a way that will satisfy him. Herewith, &c &c

(no signature)

2nd April 1646 at the Castle  
St George d'el MYNA In Guinea.

(2) Original letter, Fiscal Hendrick Caarlof to the XIX. WIC.  
21 May 1646.

Lectum 3 Xbris 1646.

Hon<sup>ble</sup>, Hon'd, Wise, Prudent, Very  
Discreet Sirs,

Sirs,

My last was by the yacht "Postpaert" that sailed from here on 2nd April. Since then the Almighty God, by the instrument of the unhealthiness of the Coast, has severely visited us, as YHH will see from the accounts and lists of those still living. Through the departure of both the factors Cock and Foullon with Mr Ruichaver, all places here remained provided without further material than by the promotion from junior to senior; thus must factor Coeyemans still keep both the general and the garrison books. Meantime we had hoped that we would have got from home someone experienced in the trade of this Coast, which has not only happened otherwise, but, on the contrary, through the deaths of the factor at Fort Nassou and of 2 sub factors we are so lacking that we have deprived (redestitueert) the factory of COMANY (which still made no profit because the small receipts consisted in Cacquera gold, which, nevertheless, will be brought to Del Myna); but we could by no means properly supply the vacant places. Particularly have we proposed all means possible again suitably to provide the factory of CRAA (the factor of which has been placed at Fort Nassou), but no one found capable to take charge of that trade, except with peril of placing that trade in confusion, because the

- Kingdom of CRAA is ruled by a "Governor", against whom have placed themselves the 3 sons of the deceased King, who try by-all-means by all means possible to place the country in ruin, in order thereby to deprive that "Governor" of the tolls and "domeynen", and to bring them under themselves; over which they cause the inhabitants, who hold with the "Governor", great molestation, and also openly cause the traders to be plundered of their gold or goods; and although the community (gemeente) against this have set up a King, nevertheless he cannot place the Kingdom under his authority (~~reinstated~~), because the parties have too many <sup>risely</sup> <sub>opponents</sub> adherents; wherefore it is all the worse and all the 3 parties

stand continually in arms against the others. Wherefore we must go to work very cautiously with this factory otherwise it might very easily be ruined. Therefore the Council, after ripe deliberation, through lack of a factor, have ordered me <sup>whither</sup>, to benefit the trade, while retaining my office; and although I was not a little afraid to undertake it through anxiety for YHHs' displeasure, yet necessity urged me to it - although on the other hand I feared the consequences that it might be taken as an offence against me - especially as the General gave me full assurance that he would himself exercise such supervision that YHH would be satisfied. Therefore I have undertaken this place from urgent necessity and not in order thereby to abandon the Fiscalship.

There are still 4 senior factors, at Myna, at Fort Nassou, and 2 sailing in the Bight, who are persisting in their previously made applications for leave, whom the General, notwithstanding that it could/please great aversion, will be obliged against his will to keep. May God Almighty defend us from further deaths, otherwise the Coast will get into a sober state, for the maintenance of the garrisons here and at St Thomé requires quite 80 men, and for the repair of the timbering at Fort Nassou (which timber work has almost entirely perished) and otherwise, we are in great need of 4-5 ship and house carpenters.

*after* The ACANISTS, as they get some very heavy knocks with the underselling (as this ~~immediately~~ is done on the arrival of an English cargo ship) ~~whereby~~ they have spent their gold whereby various of them have become impoverished, have therefore agreed that they will buy nothing of importance without underselling; so that if the English exert themselves in this trade (vaert) (which appears from the expenses they are making to their Castle and otherwise) and YHH should delay in the sending of merchandise, the ACANISTS would be obliged to take the goods of the English at such a price as they should fix, whereby the English Company would attain prosperity and so become all the stronger to further oppose the Company. Therefore it is very necessary, the sooner the better, to be helped out of this and we must never lack cargoes; for it is already to be feared that the Company, however great the exertions, will be able to receive no profits, and through lack thereof will never have to expect any again.

Actum CRAA the 21st May 1646 in Guinea. Herewith &c,

YHHs' obedient servant,  
(sgd) Hendrick CAARLOF.

(3) Original letter, Dir. Gen. Van der Wel, to the XIX. WIC.  
1st June 1646.

Lectum 3rd Xbris 1646.

Honble, Hon'd, Worshipful, Wise, Prudent,  
Very Discreet Sirs,

Honble Sirs,

The last ship that departed from here for home (with orders to call at the Island St Thomé) was the "Postpaert" from Amsterdam on 2nd April 1646 last, which we hope has brought YHH our letter of the same date, besides the return cargo to the Chamber Amsterdam, which consisted in such as YHH can see from the enclosed copy letter. And how it has gone on this Coast since, YHH will please understand from the following.

In our last we mentioned that we feared that the yacht "Reaal", as it had remained away so long on the Benyn voyage, would not appear again; but, praise God, she arrived on the 6th April, and brought as return cargo, 528L, 2/3 P. small "dryebants" [three Bands] cloths, and 940 P. Arder ditto, taken off by the skipper of the "Reaal" from factor Dirck Geerlofse, whom, on return, he found lying before Arder in the slave trade. The delay in ~~this~~ this yachts return arose firstly that she had to lie for 8 days in the mouth of the Benyn river before she could get out, because of contrary winds and high seas, so that nearly all the crew got sick. The advices that we get from there, from factor Calberner, are that he complains strongly about the small cargoes that he gets always gets by the yachts, which was not to be remedied through lack with us, especially arm rings which must necessarily be there both for the service of the trade and for subsistence (lijfs onderhoud): therefore, and as little has come to us by the ship "Heerlem", the yacht "Visscher" was sent thither on 9th April to trade the Bight to obtain tusks. In that river had arrived, on 11th December 1646, before ARBO (where our legger also lies), the English yacht under the direction of Mr Wolgrave, in order again to establish a lodge afresh there, but the factor and the skipper and chief boatswain of that yacht shortly afterwards died, and all the rest of the crew sick and so placed that they could not leave XX there: about which they had necessarily to wait for relief from Mr Wolgrave, who had little opportunity for it; but had to persuade one of the slavers, that had been there, to it, which I understand he afterwards effected.

The yacht "Reaal" after much struggling (strubbeling) reached before Arder on 16th February, where it found the yacht "Dolphyn" lying, very weak in healthy men, wherefore the factor, Dirck Geerlofse, stayed by it, both to help advance the Company's affairs and to help the crew on to their legs again with refreshments; with further advices from

Geerlofse that he had not been able to get the yacht "Fortuyn" sent away from there to St Thomé earlier than the 25th January last, with 196 male and female slaves, in the hopes of sending them to Mr Ruichaver at the Island, in order to transport the same to Brazil; which was desired but could not be done. So that those, and the 162 transported on 9th March by Geerlofse from Arder (and none have died) will make a quantity of 358, therein reckoned the 50 collected for the old debts at Arder, which must now already have been traded at St Thomé by factor Hazenberch for sugar, which will produce a large sum at 60 "aroben" each, of which I hope the ship "Haerlem", that departs thither today, will lade a parcel, with whatever may serve as return cargo; and then continue the voyage to Brazil, in order to await further orders from the Regents there.

Before I go further with about our situation, I will first refer to the situation of the foreign nations, which is such that at present there is no other ship here than Mulgrave's, which arrived before CORMANTIJN on 30th November, and so has loitered long without having so far traded his cargo, which goes much out of his calculations, as well as ours; and for the space of three months his men, through want of victuals, must live on the country. The most that he still has with him is some bad lijwaet, which sell so badly that he offers them to the Blacks at 130 @ <sup>1/2</sup> r bendo, and cannot sell them. He still has a few raven which he can hardly get rid of notwithstanding he sells them at f.56 the p., but those we have with us go readily at f.80 the p. If pro instantie (that came here) he had not advanced his other goods, and we had had the ship "Haerlem" earlier, I am confident his profits would not have signified much. His intention is to wait for a further cargo ship (which, so they say, they are expecting daily) and then shortly to depart.

Since my last by the ship "Postraert" three small ships from London have appeared, each with some Coast cargoes, and after thinking to sell the same here, to sail to the Bight for slaves, and to bring them to Barbadoes; but observing that there was no gold among the Blacks, two of them departed with their goods, but the third brought all its merchandise on shore at CORMANTIJN, and either sold the same to Mulgrave absolutely, or on what conditions it was done is unknown to us, and when it had discharged the same, also set sail, and we afterwards understand that she had lain at anchor for 2 days before CRAA, to seek for trade; but did nothing as the Blacks are timid of going out to such ships, fearing they will be taken with them.

a. @. evidently means ara, a Portuguese measure of 1 ell or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards. Thus this linen (lijwaet) was priced at 130 ells for one bendo.

As regards the Company's trade, it has to our regret gone very badly since Mr Ruychaver's departure, as little gold has been brought down by the ACANISTS in that time, and they daily complain stoutly that trade in the interior (in' tland) is at a standstill and there is a poor demand for goods. We have not experienced this alone, but the English have found it also. From what this arises, the Blacks have been able to give us little reason, but only that here and there in the interior there has been some dispute whereby some of the paths have been closed. But now it appears to be improving somewhat, and there is some gold among the Blacks; but they are very timid and fear that an English ship will shortly appear, and that we shall then have to be prepared to undersell. YHH might be well assured of this, that the ACANISTS have found that incentive (treck) to hold up their gold, as we suspect they have been persuaded that a ship by the English that a ship is at hand. Nevertheless, and besides the reported "made intervailen", I hope YHH will not slacken in supplying the Coast with suitable cargoes; for this cannot continue so but at a more suitable time the gold will indeed come down.

We wonder very much where the Rotterdam ship has remained so long, as I am informed that already in October last some goods had been purchased for the voyage. We shall have need of it shortly as we are getting very much in want of "bijwaren", and if a foreign ship comes to hand meanwhile, it is to be feared that it will pluck the ripest pears; for the slack equippage by YHH is the maintenance and prosperity of the foreign nations; and in case YHH do not provide for 4 ships annually, each with F.180,000 cargoes, both for the Coast, slave trade and Bight, I advise that, the sooner the better, the Coast be farmed out at a reasonable profit to private individuals; for all the work so far has gone piecemeal, and often fought against its own shadow; but if YHH send cargoes as required, it is by far the best, in my opinion, that it remain with the Company.

[Subsidiary goods]

We are still reasonably supplied with lijwaet & iron, but with little of other merchandise, and if any gold comes down, it will be quickly sold. The last two ships, "Eendracht" of Enchuyzen and "Haerlem" of Amsterdam, brought us a parcel of bad lijwaeten, especially that come by the Enchuyzen "Eendracht", which we hope will be remedied in future. Likewise the sheets, so inferior (olijk) that we have placed them at 16-18 P. per bende. The Turkey "carpetten" received by the "Haerlem" are of good colour but made much shorter and smaller, which ought to be attended to so that the demand may continue, in order to receive the good profit that they give. The merchandise that

was sold after the last underselling have gone off, thank God, at a good price, and slackened only because so little gold has come down.

~~Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to blurring and bleed-through.~~

~~Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to blurring and bleed-through.~~

**Division** It has not gone with us as desired in the receipt of gold, and we have been able to remit to YHH by the ship "Haerlem" not more than Mk.808: 7.oz: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  eng gold, and 12,936 lb elephants' tusks, So also does God Almighty visit and punish us very fearfully with the deaths of persons necessary for the service. We daily pray to our Heavenly Father to stay the grievous state in which we have been up till now, so that it seems as if we shall all die out; for since March up till now we have lost more than 70 men, and got so far that at the Castle d'el Mina we can make up only 8-9 guards (schilder gasten), and instead of 4 sentries standing out, we have had to bring it to 2, who stand more than 200 paces from each other. Fort Nassouw, according to advice from the factor, has not more than 10 healthy men. By this the men are weakennd and still daily take to their beds. Many artisans are taken from us. Both carpenters of the "Haerlem" died here on shore, so that we have had to place the only ships carpenter on the "Haerlem". The carrenter of the yacht "Fortuyn" was bitten by a shark, from which he afterwards died. The smith, whom we so much needed her is dead also. The gesloorte Chaloup, lately sent sent us by the Chamber Amsterdam and put together here, is standing incomplete in the Cat Place, inside the Castle; we cannot complete it through lack of carpenters, nor have we men to sail her. The ship "Haerlem" is so soberly manned

in pieces  
not put  
together

that we cannot take one man off her. The Chief Factor Cornelis Van der Cost, who was in charge of Fort Nassouw & two capable sub factors have gone the same way, which causes us much embarrassment in carrying on the Company's service. We have therefore been obliged to break up the factory of COMPANY, and to employ the "leerges" at the other places. Fort Nassouw ought to be provided with a well qualified ~~factor~~ factor, as it is the most important trading place next to de Myne; consequently we have had to take off Chief Factor Joris van Hogenhoeck from CRAA in order to provide for that place, although he has been out more than 6½ years and would like to have gone home; but considering the extremities into which we have fallen he has, on my exhortation, taken this in hand for the good of the Company. I hope YHH will again employ the old experienced factors and then expect his discharge. You will please bear in mind that the Chief Factor and Bookkeeper in one, Isaac Coeymans is also trying to depart home, and if these two are away then there remains no one who can keep the books properly except Jeremias Loten, whom we are training for that and to be a good factor, ~~for~~ but much has to be provided for in this as he has not yet suffered his "aanstaande siekte". About which it is therefore necessary firstly to send out 2 or 3 experienced factors and 1 or 2 bookkeepers, and if you cannot resolve upon this it will be injurious to you and extremely distressing to us. I beg you will please take this request into consideration for the proper direction of the trade so that it does not fall out injuriously, for the Company suffers more damage through incompetent factors than smuggling ~~(smuggling)~~, which you intend to take in hand. The supervision lately taken in hand by YHH to prevent this is, is praiseworthy, and if anything slips through, then they must here, again, dance through the pikes ~~(doop de pikes door de pikes)~~. I hope that it will not be thought, in consequence of what the aforesaid, that we sought to encourage the smuggling; but I declare that with good courage it will be found for the good of the Company.

For the vacant place at CRAA, through Joris van Hogenhoeck being employed at Fort Nassouw, we have, with the resolution of Council, been able to take no other course than to place the Fiscal Hendrick Caarlof provisionally at CRAA to direct the trade there, while retaining his office. We should have excused him on account of his office if we had had any one more competent, but meantime we must ~~make~~ <sup>now</sup> shift with the one that we have ~~(mat de riemen roeyen)~~ at present. If YHH will not let this continue, then other people than are now here must be sent. YHH will please to consider man's mortality, and if I die, Isaac Coeymans can be considered the most competent to direct trade and to keep the books, but is still

rather young for the further government. That resolution being taken, we still lack another Fiscal in place of Caarlof, to help prevent all "vuylicheden van snessery", which he cannot now well do seeing he is so far away; I have therefore provisionally summoned from the island St Thomé the "Auditeur" van Perre, who, the Fiscal assures me is a serviceable person, ~~but I fear he is not so well qualified as~~  
~~understand the accounts of the Forts.~~

The deaths of all the former persons in the Company's service makes us very embarrassed, chiefly in trade and in the proper maintenance of all the Forts. I fear ere long we shall have to abandon the small fort St Jago, which is situate above d'el Mina, and bring the soldiers there within the walls of the Castle; but we shall throw down all the guns out of the ramparts and bring them in. We shall not here be so taken by surprise but that we could, if men were were not lacking, man the same at the necessary time; but fear we shall never be so placed as to withstand a large number of besiegers.

Besides the natural working of God in so depriving us of men, the worst has also happened. The consoler of the sick (siekentrooster) Adriaen Laurens Kuystermans, born in Oudebosch, come out by the ship "Cameel" from Amsterdam in 1642, laid hands upon himself, although in his ten days sickness and otherwise we could observe that he behaved as a Christian mediator always kind with consoling words in his mouth, and never observed any trace of wavering courage in him; but the devil so took him unawares that he strangled himself at the door of his lodgings with two garters round his neck. The dreadful spectacle has grieved us and deprived of us of a consoler of the sick, as there are only two on the Coast, the one of whom, stationed at Axem, intends to go home as his time has expired, so that 1 or 2 others ought to be sent; but especially a pastor.

The sickness has been so vehement that it has ended in 5 or 6 days, and mostly of one kind, with complaints of "bangicheyt voor 't hart". It is not only among us but much more severe among the Blacks and Company slaves, Wherefore it is necessary for us to get 50 slaves from Arder for the work which is necessary for the maintenance of the fortification, and if 50 slave women are not to be got for it, it will be necessary cost the Company at least 3 gulden per month to maintain the same. My request therefore is to be allowed to let 50 come from Arder with their wives, on which I await VHHs' resolution, and if this is not allowed then many needs of the Company must be left out. But I don't doubt it will be authorised and will provisionally send for them when the yachts go to Arder, and if not allowed, to send them away with the few that are here.

[for  
smuggling]

[least  
doctors?]

We beg that all the necessaries previously asked for and those in the accompanying list may be sent us. Be assured that if we obtain no materials to renew with timber, and tiles, ridge tiles and lime, the roofs of the Church, and other warehouses in which the merchandise stands, much damage will be caused it, for we find this necessary through the heavy rains that fall at this time.

We are greatly in need of books, paper and pens, which should not be forgotten to be sent by first opportunity.

The ship "Haerlem", which on sailing out was victualled for not longer than 9 months, will take longer on her voyage. We have provided for her crew from here to home, with the view that if any disaster is observed in Brazil, she will not have need of anything; and we have ordered factor Hazenberch to give victuals for those who are sent from St Thomé.

~~Illegible text, possibly a crossed-out letter or document.~~

~~Illegible text, possibly a crossed-out letter or document.~~

From St Thomé we have no other news than that brought to us by Fiscal Caarlof by the yacht "Visscher"; and that to our surprise. It is true that we have ordered the yacht

"Fortuyn" from Amsterdam, by your orders, that a yacht shall continually cruise there to prevent all rascalities (folien), but we have understood from Fiscal Caarlof that the intention was, through Mr Ruychaver's plan, that men should be stationed round the Island, and thereby to guard against any foreign ships or yachts arriving. It seems that another resolution was afterwards taken, and is the cause that so many tusks do not come to YHH as I had otherwise thought.

*will fare ill*  
*begged familiarly*  
 If YHH do not maintain the victory in Brazil and this becomes known to the Portuguese at St Thomé, the fear is that Commander Molder some day or other "een qualijk vaert sal overcomen" through the familiarity which he keeps with that deceitful nation. I have now, by letter, begged him to beware of it as much as he can, but over YHH's absolute wishes that he should keep himself within his Fort, it is in my opinion necessary to order him. We, on the contrary, have absolutely no good feelings for that nation being convinced that their "schoon seablant" is but a pretence: we are therefore afraid to reduce the garrison, but send as many men as we can, spare and therefore for a time shall be very much in need of soldiers. I think that we shall get 50 soldiers by the Rotterdam ship, upon which is being relied.

- To carry on trade in proper style on that island, he recommends the appointment of either Arent Cook or Jean Poulson who went home with Ruychaver, in place of ~~van der beach who has been sent home~~  
 in these times it is necessary to take great care for St Thomé because of the revolt arisen in Brazil, as he thinks there will be a great demand for sugar at home than before. Without doubt there will be a great demand for sugar again in warm sea, he has done before against the superstitious practices of the foreign nations.  
 Mr Molderve has declared (but I place no belief at all upon it), that the King of SAGO had offered to deliver Fort Nassouw into his hands, but that he had ignored (nagelaten) it from respect for the Gowany; as otherwise he saw a good chance for it (als anders cans niet fatsoen sacht). This serves as a warning to YHH and request that such men may be sent as in the accompanying list. To-day received advice from Horenhoek (Fort Nassouw) that he had no more than 10 healthy men at the Fort.

*begin*  
 The Vaendrig, Louwerens Fiddelerus is also among those who have died. He leaves a widow born at del Wyna of a

Portuguese and a mulatto woman, He leaves a widow born at del Myna and a child one year old, and as by his last Will he has appointed me guardian of the child, I hope YHH - will allow the orphan to come to its own on the accounts of the Vaandrig's salary sent to you.- The Vaandrig was a good servant of the Company in his lifetime. It is necessary to send by the first opportunity a capable man as commander over the military in his place, whom we will expect and appoint no one here.

In my letter of 21st December 1645 I expressed the opinion that the Fort AXEM (because of the little profit the Company draws from it) does not require such a garrison as has been kept there hitherto; and as we find ourselves so deprived of men and we are more concerned with the good garrisoning of del Myna and Fort Nassouw, we have, by resolution of Council, withdrawn men from there except for twelve, where previously there used to be thirty, whom we shall employ at del Myna & Mouré; but if YHH desire a stronger garrison, this should be made up by sending men.

- Begs that everything asked for in all these letters may be sent as soon as possible, both merchandise and men.-

- Factor Jeremias Looten dangerously ill with country sickness. -

- Considers the samples of beads need not be sent this time. Thereon.-

Castle St Jorge El Myna,  
1st June. Guinea 1646.

Herewith &c,  
(sgd) J. van der Wel.

(4). Original Letter. Van der Wel to WIC. 5th June 1646.  
"Lectum, 6th December 1646." Hon.Hond. &c.  
Honble Sirs,

To-day a letter came to my hands from Mr Tymon Mulgrave, English factor lying with his ship "Hope" before CORMANTIJN. He reports that he intends to depart to England within 3 or 4 days; therefore I cannot omit to make this short necessary report.

On 1st instant the ship "Haerlem" of Amsterdam departed from here with a remittance (remis) of Mark 808. oz.7. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  eng. gold & 12,936 lb. elephants' tusks, with express orders cautiously to call at St Thomé (and if everything found in good order) to load sugar and further cargo occurring, as

shall be shipped by Commander Mulder & Factor Hasenberch. We trust that she will have found a good supply ready, as the yachts "Fortuyn" and "Dolphyn"; according to advices received per yacht "Reael" (which has arrived from Benyn), transported 358 slaves, men and women, from Arder and having missed Mr Ruychaver at St Thomé, they will have been sold at the island which, if none have died, will produce a sum of 21,480 "aroben" at 60 "aroben" each. Her skipper, Symon, has been ordered to lie at St Thomé till the last day of July, at latest, and then with the inladen to sail to Brazil in order to depart from there with the last going fleet of this year. God Almighty grant that YHH may see the return cargo. I wish the remittance (~~cash~~) in gold could have been larger; but trade has long been at a standstill with the Blacks, so that the sober receipts have hit not only us but the English nation.

Our further afflictions YHH will learn of from the letter given to Symons; but will say this, that since last March to date, we have been smitten by the hand of God with the death of 75 persons, and that with the sickness, mostly of one kind; healthy and dead within 6 or 7 days. You will please consider how we are placed, as nearly all the "treyn gasten" have died. One chief factor, 3 sub factors, and 2 assistants have ~~die~~ gone. - Therefore has transferred Chief factor Horenhouck from Craa to Fort Nassouw, & Hendrick Caarlof sent to Craa &c (as in last letter)-

-Death of Vaandrig Fiddelerus. - Urges speedy sending of the assistance asked for in his last letter.-  
Your faithful servant,  
(sgd) J. van der Wel.

5th June 1646, at the Castle  
St George del Myna in Guinea.

[Yellow  
fever?]

[artillery  
men?]

(5). Copy letter (unsigned. Van der Wel) to the XIX. WIC.  
14 August 1646.

"Copy". Hon. Hond. Worshipful. Wise. Prudent. Very Discreet  
Sirs.

Honble Sirs,

My last to YHH was 1st June last per ship "Haerlem" of Amsterdam, which then carried a ~~large~~ return cargo of Mk. 808: oz. 7: eng. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ., and 12,936 lb. elephants' tusks which I hope you will have duly received. The instruction to the commander of that ship was that he should, with every precaution, call at St Thomé to take off everything that might serve as return cargo and then proceed on the voyage to Brazil in the confidence that Messrs the Regents would despatch that ship to sail home in the shortest time; but afterwards received advices from St Thomé that the ship "Gote Cristoffel" chartered by the Chamber Zeeland had been there and by order of Commander Milder had carried away 151,195 $\frac{1}{2}$  "aroben" sugar. Truly the "~~Cristoffel~~" ~~se~~ need not have lain at work (~~to work select~~) for so much time for transporting that sugar for our intention always is to send the ships that depart from here to that island, to take off return cargoes. It is indeed true that YHH desire this, as we see on the arrival of the ship "St Pieter" of Rotterdam on 3rd July last, that the XIX by resolution, also do; therefore in my opinion Commander Milder is not to blame in this, for such strict order to make a lading in no other ships than those that cross over from this Coast to Brazil, was not at that time known either to him or to us; upon which YHH can firmly rely shall be observed by us in future.

It could happen that this letter and the accompanying annexes get home quicker than the departure of the first fleet in the coming year, either by chartered ships or otherwise; but we cannot neglect to write YHH herewith about what has passed since the departure of the "Haerlem", which you will please learn shortly from the following, and we will afterwards make a more "punctual" report when the letters go by the "St Pieter".

It is such that after the departure of the ship "Haerlem", and the accounts had been closed on 15th May, as YHH will have seen, sent by the "Haerlem", we have had reasonable sales in the current "bijwaren" at the desired prices; but as has appeared, this had no long duration, seeing that on 3rd July arrived before CORMANTIJN an English ship named "Golden Star" 80-90 tons (~~last~~) together with a yacht, 30 tons, named "Maria Constant", both coming on behalf of the English Guinea Company, laden with Coast cargoes, and, we understand from various

reports, a good assortment of everything. This vexed us extremely for, as said before, most of the Company's most current merchandise had been spent (verschoijt), but, on the 4th "includys", when I was at Mouré for inspection of the Fort Nassouw and other necessary matters, I received letter of 3rd July that the ship "St Pieter" from Rotterdam had arrived before d'el Myna, which, although I found still much to do at Mouré, urged me to proceed quickly to windward; which I did at night betwween the 4th and 5th ditto, together with factor Loten and reached the ship "St Pieter" before d'el Myna in the morning; where no other letters were handed to me by the skipper but on behalf of the Chamber of the Maze generally and "respective" from the Hon gentlemen of Rotterdam; besides a short letter from some Deputies who were in the Hague, that one or two ships had been conditioned (geschaepen) on the part of the Crown of SWEDEN to come to this

Coast. It is, under correction, strange, that I received

no letter from the Assembly of the XIX therewith, and punctual orders given how we should act on the arrival of these ships. *How we acted when it came Y.H.H. will see from the annexure*  
~~ships. we are in wij ons verontende doen ons sulcx te varen~~  
~~[not here] & shall touch upon later.~~  
~~kwam, hebben, gecleecht, as Y.H.H. can see from the annexures~~  
 and shall touch upon later herein.

[Smuggling] [But before I come to that, it needs to be shortly stated that when I arrived at the "St Pieter" I at once gave orders to see that no private goods were carried out of her, since I found "een deel oude chineesen" on the same ship. I therefore called two slaves from the shore to keep supervision over such, with the threat that if they let themselves be corrupted I would have both their heads cut off. and that if they kept a proper look-out I would reward them. We found good to do this on this occasion because we always find ourselves deceived by having soldiers to keep look-out for this. Meantime we had the Fiscal Caarlof summoned from CRAA to appear here as quickly as possible, but before he appeared various canoes appeared about the ship on the night of 7th ditto, with which the "chineesen" thought to get some goods on shore. The Blacks warned me faithfully, and although I was sickly at the time I thereupon <sup>was</sup> enquired <sup>made</sup> and obtained 10 small kegs beads as large as  $\frac{1}{2}$  ankers, and 5 pieces saij, which I had brought into the cabin. The Fiscal came on the 8th ditto, who, while he was

on board got more at various times, who afterwards filed information (proponereert eysch) at the meeting of Council and, by a majority of votes, all such goods were confiscated namely, 1/3 for Company, 1/3 for Fiscal, and the remainder for the poor; from which was got (geschapen) Mk.15: Eng.2. This has given a bad blow for "chinesees" in these parts, but we have not been able to catch everything as YHH will be able to understand in the continuation of this. ]

The ship "St Pieter" brings us a reasonably well assorted cargo, but so far as we have yet seen, it were to be wished that in many sorts the merchandise had been better, both in lywaet, copper, beads and otherwise; added to which, various are short, about which we hope to satisfy you when that ship comes over.

I consider that ever since ships for the Company have arrived on this Coast, no more disorderly invoices have been brought, as in none of all the cases of Lywaet do we know how many (a) they contain; and we cannot understand for what purpose this has been done; for it has always been the custom that in cases of Lywaet a note has been found with the packer's name, and in the invoice was only stated that 101 cases contain 102,619 (as). It gives us much trouble and injury will ensue as we are thereby obliged to take all the lywaet out of the cases to see whether they all agreed, and when such inspection is done, it is impossibaa for us to pack them all perfectly again in the cases. Moreover this makes them very unsightly and unacceptable to the Blacks. So, for this time we omit to write further hereon and await the result thereof; but we cannot neglect to refer to various spoiled goods which have been brought, such as "rouhessens" and sheets. It also appears that all the ship's oil sent for the country had leaked out. How it will fare with the [Spanish wine?] "spaanse" and liquor, time will show as they have not yet been unloaded.

[Comme cloth from Heboen]

Coming to the matter of trade and how the course of it is at present, you can perceive from the accompanying Price List, last drawn up, which we had thought would have enticed the gold out of the country in large handfulls; but although the goods stand at such moderate prices yet we nevertheless found no great receipts. Why it is so slack we cannot get to know from the Blacks. The English follow us in selling, and as our "Bijwaren" "te met voortgaan", so if no greater quantity with us we can do no injury to the party with them, as we shall be obliged to place the lywaets at 140 (as) per benda and higher in order to stop his, or he must follow us in the selling.

What further occurs to us in these times consists in the following. On the night of the 1st August we received a letter from Axem in which factor Froom advised that on the 30th July last a "fluyt" ship came to anchor about Axem. Proceeding on board, he understood that that fluyt was from GOTTENBURG, and had no Coast cargo, only for the Bight in order to trade slaves; but intended to sail along the coast to dispose of their private goods; also that they wished to go to St Thomé to see if they could do any trade with the Portuguese.

On this advice, resolution was taken to summon the Fiscal who had shortly departed to CRAA, and to send the Equippage Master to Chama to be able to get a clearer understanding of the circumstances of that ship; who, on his return on 3rd instant, reported that he had been on board the ship, being a "fluyt" at a guess about 140-150 tons (~~last~~), mounted with 16 iron guns, 30 eaters, the captain, well known to him named AREWT GABBESEN; sailed out of the Vlie with wife and children on 13th April last to Gottenburg, from where he ~~parted~~ <sup>sailed</sup> on 12th May. He declared he had no Coast cargo, but only some liquor on his private account, but wished to go to Calvary for slaves or, so he said, to Angola; which slaves he intended to sell at the Caribes islands. The Equippage Master pointed out to him that his ship had too deep a draught to run into the Calvary, but he said he

[This ship  
was  
equipped  
by ~~down~~  
de Peer.]

Flute, =  
Storeship  
[Calvary  
betimong]

could make the same at deep draught. <sup>High tide</sup> He declared he had his Commission from the Queen of SWEDEN. His crew were mostly Hollanders, or at least residing there. He anchored in the evening before Chama.

On the 4th August, in the afternoon at 3.30, that Swedish ship came to anchor in the roads before d'el Myna with her flag on top (boven af), fired some shots, but no one appeared on shore from the Commander.

On the 5th ditto we saw 2 sail come down from windward, one of which came into the roads about midday. But before we continue with this, we will conclude the continuation of the matter of Arent Gabbesen. ] *proffessant*

Our bounden duty, on this occurrence, was to get proper information about everything and to give judgement how we should recognise (kennen) the ship and goods of this Arent Gabbesen. Therefore on the 6th August we proceeded on board the ship "St Pieter" with the Fiscal and Councillors, where Arent Gabbesen appeared, who showed his documents of permission (vrijdomme) and in opening the same ~~the~~ we found the enclosed list of men engaged at Amsterdam, written in his own hand, which we would not return to him. After having examined everything well, the <sup>Information</sup> "eyesch" of the Fiscal followed. The examination made thereon by us, and the decision on the matter, YHH will find <sup>herewith.</sup> Whether

*\*. Not here but see diary of Aug 5 p 42 post.*

we have acted herein to YHHs' satisfaction, time will show.

On the 7th, Arent Gabbesen appeared on shore in person and offered to sell me 150 ankers liquor and about 1,000 lb. beads. He declared he had no Coast cargo ~~otherwise~~ otherwise in the ship, and what he now offered me was his own. I duly declined his offer, over which he seemed grieved, saying that he had not doubted that we would have accepted the goods at a moderate price.

[Smuggling  
on the  
St Peter]

[Fiscal Caarlof informed me that the skipper, Cornelis Leendertsz Blauw had brought to light (licht gegeven) that his men had brought various ankers of liquor to the ship, without knowing where they came from. Wherefore I thought good to send the Fiscal, "nevens geweldige" and 2 of our slaves to the "St Pieter", carefully to catch it. On the 8th, the Fiscal reported he had got 45 ankers liquor and that mostly with regard to the "chineesen" who had previously fallen into the trap (in klem gelopen) so bravely.

Hereupon a meeting of Council was at once summoned and the 45 ankers declared forfeited, which, on the sale of it, will produce a sum of Mk.4:1:12 Eng. for the profit of the Company, Fiscal, and poor, each 1/3rd part. It is a stout deed (bestant) of the buyers (coopers) who had recently been so bravely entrapped (in klem gelopen) by us. One can also observe that what has been found and detained is not all

that there has been in the ship "St Pieter", but we shall reward these "chinesen" according to their work and make it so that they will carry no private merchandise from home for 4 years, and afterwards take them off the ship "St Pieter" on various considerations and distribute them on the yachts.]

On the 9th August, being misty weather, Arent Gabbesen set ~~sail~~<sup>Some of the</sup> sail, setting course at first to sea; but afterwards, we understand, he lay at anchor for 24 hours before CORMANTION, and then sailed away. And this is so far what happened with Arent Gabbesen and his ship.

Although we find that Arent Gabbesen gave different accounts of his intentions saying to one that he wishes to call at St Thomé, and to another that he will seek his profit at Barbadoes, yet our opinion is that he has intentions on St Thomé. Therefore we found good, by resolution, to keep watch upon him and to send the ship "St Pieter" to St Thomé before we close the accounts on the Coast; which we hope will be done within a month and send the receipts of gold after it, by the yacht "Dolphyn". Nevertheless we shall take care that the ship shall be in Brazil before the ordinary first fleet parts from Brazil. The instruction we shall give to the Captain (besides the other Articles) will be such that in case he shall get to Arent Gabbesen about the island, he shall examine him and if he finds he has sugar in his ship, he shall take him with him ~~te~~ and bring him to Brazil, or at least,

if he should have dropped anchor at an unauthorised place to compel him to come to the lawful roadstead of St Thomé. God Almighty grant that he may fall into the hands of the Company on good grounds.

As regards the two before-mentioned ships which we saw on the 5th instant, one was a small English ship which comes from Barbadoes to trade slaves in the Bight, and to sell them at that island. The other is the ship "Houtwijn" freighted by the gentlemen of Groningen, sailed on 9th May, having on board 94 soldiers, 17 women and children for the Company, and a crew of 16. The cause of their coming here, so they say, is that they are entirely destitute of water, and also the victuals, given for the soldiers, consumed, ~~the list of which I would like to have seen but they say they have none, as it was required by Cornelis van Royen before she sailed out. --- In my opinion~~ is although the skipper declares that he was provided by his owners for 4 months for 110 people, the list of which I would like to have seen, but he says he has none but that it was required by Cornelis van Royen before he sailed out. In my opinion they have eaten "Gese maats uit de corf" without care, but as we have seen no list we cannot control them, but send them to their competent judges in Brazil.

The scandal that we have seen here, and done by the freighters of this ship, can in no way be justified, for we could not find one cask sufficiently bound with iron bands, and nothing but old hogsheads and pipes which had been picked up from wine sellers. We have therefore been obliged to provide that ship with 5 new "leggers" for which the ship or its owners promises to pay the sum of f.100. The men on board demanded to be provided with refreshment, as they had been long at sea and "noch voor den deur stont"; which, in pigs, fowls, fruit & cost 3 oz. 7 eng. and daily until to-day we did everything to get her dispatched and to set sail again as their victuals, except bread, have been consumed and they are now consuming the pork and "potspuys" that the gentlemen of Groningen shipped in that ship for Brazil. But I have made some rectification in the issue of it and ordered them to give 3 lb. bread weekly instead of 3½ lb., and ½ lb. pork each ration day, for they had always given ¾ lb. till their arrival here.

As regards the state of St Thomé it appears to be properly looked after, to give the Company good profits, but

[leggers here  
seems to  
mean  
caskage.]

through the death of factor Hazenberg they got into great confusion to get proper accounts both of merchandise and victuals. But Commander Mulder writes us that he has sent the Books and all papers home by the ship "Haerlem". On 18th July, by his letter Daarbij wert ons met ditto Commander Mulder met schrijvens van den 18th July t'mes soo op de keel geset van als doen niet langer als 3 - 4 maenden victaullie te hebben en vraecht my af soo wanneer dit is geconsumeert als dan sullen aengaen.

And so that no "Ingnorantie op ons mocht werden gepretend-eert" that we have given cause for the loss of that Island, we have found no better means than to send him provisions for six weeks months for 200 men by the ship "St Pieter"; whereby we are very much in want, and so far have been obliged to issue "costgelt" to the garrisons monthly.

*[Substantive money]*

As there no means at St Thomé to fill the vacant place of the deceased Hazenberg, we have had to deprive ourselves here and encourage to it, Reymmer Deeckers who has been factor at Axem, whose time was up, to send him thither as Commissaris over the merchandise & victuals and keeping the garrison books at a salary of f.108 a month....

- Owing to the death of Anthony Calbenaer, factor in the Benyn on 18th March, and he had no assistance but a boy, the yacht "Visscher" left Ivan Claesen Pot there, who had been trained here and appointed an assistant. He is still young but seeing that YHH have not been pleased to provide us with capable comrades, we must therefore row with the oars that we have, &c.

14th August 1646 at the Castle (unsigned)  
St George d'el MYNA In Guinea.

*[Sample]*

Note. The following letter from Ruychaver to the XIX is dated 22nd April 1646 in Brazil, where he had arrived on his way home from the Gold Coast. The first part of it therefore deals with Gold Coast affairs in 1645, and should have been noted under that year. ~~The whole letter has been photographed, but the latter part, dealing with St Thomé after his arrival there, has not been translated.~~

Hon. Hond. Worshipful. Wise. Prudent. Very Discreet Sirs,

Sirs,

Although I have left the Northern District of Africa (to sail to a better & beloved fatherland) I find it likewise not inadvisable to make a written report of what has happened since my last per the ship "Zeelandia", which proceeded on her voyage from d'el Mina on 27th May last 1645.

Firstly we will begin with the English, who have again appeared here in good number. (Note. The letter was evidently ~~written, or~~ begun, on the Gold Coast).

On 9th June the yacht named "Mr Lucas" after a German merchant resident in London, to whom she belongs, the skipper and factor of which was named Jan Sibbings, being built up (opgetimmerd) from a Spanish barque, 40 tons, mounted with 2 field guns (gotelingen) 2 6 swivel guns (steen stukken) and 16 eaters, sailed from the Downs on 30 March: on 17th June aforesaid (June) to Calvary for 100 slaves, so that she stayed at CORMANTIJN for 8 days (where she sold some trifles). On 8th July appeared before that <sup>["James"]</sup> port the ship named "Mr Jems", 100 tons; 40 eaters; 20 guns; skipper Mr Yrelant Yrelant; sub-factor James Lucas; had been 3 months out of England; on 13 May sailed into and on 13th June out of Siera Liones (where they understood that the Courland fluyt had been on the Quaqua and Grain Coasts and also there, trading some tusks both from the inhabitants & the English factors, with which she sailed for home at the end of April); had a well assorted Gold Coast cargo, also some lime for the repair of their fort; and after driving her trade (but not to satisfaction) sailed on 17th October from CORMANTIJN to England.

On August 29th appeared at anchor before COMANY a Fluyt called "Jan & Isaac"; 110 tons; 6 guns; 36 eaters; sailed from the Downs on 26 April having traded the Grain & Tusk Coasts; also before Assine, Abbene and Anten; leaving the said port on 1st September, proceeded to before CORMANTIJN where, having sold a little of their serges, ~~set~~ (smeer) and liquor, proceeded on 11th ditto to Bight for slaves. tallow

On 30th November Mr <sup>Timothy</sup> Thimote Mulsgrave passed in the ship "Hope"; about 200 tons; 24 guns; and many men among whom 20 for the shore, bringing a respectable Gold Coast cargo; with it a small yacht for the Bight & Benyn trade which departed thither on 14th December to prosecute its trade (is also of the intention to establish a Lodge at ACKERA -Accra?- but in my opinion will progress little). Upon which, on 17th ditto followed a Chaloup, and on 18th the "vergadt" (frigate?) named "Mary", which had been at Cape de Verde where the factor and skipper, Mr James Brancton, had died. And the Chaloup being set up (opgeset), it will apparently be employed for the slave trade, as his trade consists mostly in that; but has, so they give to understand, for the Gold Coast, also f.16,000 in cargo. From all of which YHM can easily perceive that the Coast must continually be kept in "bruljade" (disturbance?) and it is not possible to fix a uniform Price List (Markt brief); for although they are only slave traders, the ACANISTS likewise keep their gold unspent, and have begun to do so for some time against the coming of the English; and for months past have kept the ["contant"] by them in the hopes of an underselling, but with the excuse - but we know better - that their goods are lying unsold in the interior (~~interior~~); but both those of the Mina and Mouré have all made great promises that if we give more, they will not visit the English, which they reasonably observed on the arrival of Mr Yrlant. How it will now go with the appearance of Mr Mulgraf's and Brancton's frigate as they have not yet thoroughly entered upon trade, time will show.

[cont]

On 16th June arrived here the from home the ship "Eendracht" from Amsterdam; 24 guns; 53 eaters; among them 12 soldiers; bringing a cargo of f.118,005; but one case over was found, No. 60 with 1002 @ lywaet; also f.23,786.2½ stvrs in victuals and merchandise for the island St Thomé. And as the Fiscal had proceeded to CORMANTIJN for the Company's profit, I went on board myself to prevent smuggling; but Domine Fiscus returning the next day, I left the charge to him who, in the unloading, used all possible diligence to discover anything but found nothing but an anker "gebrande" knives, and one ditto small hooks, 2 half-ankers lemon & orange "past", twenty Rialen van Achten and 16 gallons (stoopen) liquor which, because of the small quantity, was allowed to the owners.

Since by daily experience it is found and clearly appears that those of FANTYN, CORMANTIJN, and the ACANISTS settled there are much more attached to the English than to us, it was found good by the Council on the 1st August, to abandon that port, and to call up the yacht "Fortuyn" to load the

St Thomé goods, with the view to seeing whether the ACANISTS could thereby be attracted to d'el Mina or under Fort Nassouw: for so long as CORMANTIJN was traded by us the traders remained there to the profit of the (party) which, apparently, by abandonment, will change, especially if ~~(it)~~ there is weak equipage with the English. The contrary being found, we could with as good grounds, hinder them with underselling at d'el Mina and Fort Nassouw than by trading there. Some of the principal ACANISTS have now promised, (upon which a present has been given) at the first opportunity, to come and settle ~~(at d'el Mina)~~ at d'el Mina or at Mouré. What will come of it, time will shew. disclose.

On 16th August, the yacht "Visscher" appeared out of the Bight having traded 13,666 lb. tusks, but as the factor Anthony Hersveyer had died at Cape de Loop on 29 July, she had not visited the windward Tusk & Quaqua Coasts. In place of the deceased, Assistant Jan van Weyen has been placed on the "Visscher" and, as skipper, in place of Weijdert Smient, the mate of the yacht "Reael" Meyndert Lourensz Swart, who went with it back to the Bight on 27th October.

As it is found that the yacht or chaloup "Jongen Arent" is no longer seaworthy to store goods in her, she was, after inspection, on 24th August hauled into the river to be broken up (~~2 gesloopt~~).

The yacht "Fortuyn" on which Dirck Geerlofsen was placed as Factor, being supplied with Bight goods and also having on board all the merchandise and some victuals for St Thomé, departed to that Island on 26th ditto, with orders to hasten as quickly as possible to the Gaboon & Capé de Loop and windward places to prosecute the tusk trade; which returned to del Mina on 29th November with 8,020 lb tusks, 75 Quaqua cloths and 12 p. ox hides; which on 8th December in order to prosecute the slave trade at Arda (where is Huybrecht Valckraren, to become experienced in that trade) sailed thither and, as skipper, in place of Harpert Clasen Groenwar#out, who has become Equipage Master, Mate Claes Adriaensenz Wranck has been promoted.

On October 10th the yacht "Dolphyn" appeared from Calbarie and the Bight, having obtained there 9,676 lb. tusks, 535 pieces Quaqua cloths and 297 slaves, all which were left at St Thomé, purchased by the Commander and Commissaris in sugar at 50 "arobis" each; and on 15th December, for the prosecution of the Arder trade, she also sailed

thither with the intention to obtain 3 to 4 half-hundred slaves altogether, and to get in the outstanding debts as much as possible. On the same day, vizt 10 October appeared the yacht "Postpaert" from home, on account of the Chamber Amsterdam, having on the voyage hither traded 201,335 lb. grain, 20,070 lb. tusks, 120 p. Quagua cloths and Mk.11:7:2½ eng. gold; which set sail again on 27th ditto to the Gaboon, Cape de Loop and afterwards to call at the Grain and windward places.

On 11th ditto arrived also from the fatherland, the ship or fluyt "Eendracht" from Enchuysen, which had sailed out of Texel on 28th July; about 200 tons; 22 guns; 72 esters, among them 31 soldiers; bringing a Gold Coast cargo of f.150,504.13.12., but was found that on the liquor 908 gl.: 17: 8 pen too much had been placed and also 250 p. "rouhessens" 6-8 @ shorter than is usual, which was not unknown to the buyers as they cost 3 shillings less; which tends to the injury of the Company, since they must necessarily be sold at 2 engels lower. Also in one case 9 p. serge were mostly perished and the lywaet also found bad. By this ship I saw, with gladness, my relief, for which I heartily thank YHH, not doubting you will have great satisfaction from my successor, whom I have recognised as such and consulted about everything for the Company's advantage. Hendrick Caarlof was appointed Fiscal in his palee place, and do not doubt he will act according to honour and oath; and he has seized the following goods out of that ship: 56 ankers liquor, 36 sheets, and ½ anker fish hooks belonging to 28 persons, which were released by the Council provided they gave contentment to the Fiscal, as appears further from the examination. And as soon as it was possible, which I could no effect till the 30th November, the Government was handed over to Mr van der WEL, and then their Ho. Mo.s' and YHHs' Commissions were publicly read before all the world; upon which followed the proper ceremonies of cannon-firing. And I had the accounts closed, which it was not possible to do unless I was present: so I remained with Mr van der Wel at the Castle d'el Mina until 18th December, and handed over all the goods along the Coast, to his satisfaction, as further appears in the inventories. Whereupon I proceeded on board the Amsterdam "Eendracht" with all the documents, in order to close them on the way. And on the 21st ditto the aforementioned gentleman appeared on the ship with letter for YHH; and then, with the Enchuisen "Eendracht", we both sailed to Fort Nassouw. Having some there, we went on shore together and took due leave from all the friends there, having made presents to the Sabous, Mourees, and Acanists (which was also done to the del Minas, Akras, and Axems). The next morning at 9

9 o'clock, being the 22nd, I proceeded on board again with Domine Fiscus, who goes with me to learn the state of the island, and at once set sail to proceed on our voyage with the two "Eendrachts" by way of St Thomé and Brazil to the fatherland, - God grant we may come over safely- leaving all the fortifications in good repair and the whole Coast "weegens mijn persoon" in good peace and concord, so far as I know; but those of GREAT COMANY have for some time shown themselves very "absort" (?), but not to the injury, but the profit of the Company, as no traders are settled there and quite 3 or 4 Marks in presents annually are saved.

I will now reply to the letters from the Chamber of Amsterdam, the one dated 9th May, and the other 6th July 1645.

I was glad to hear of the delivery of the letter by the English ship "Star" as also copy of the "Caritas". I hope you will have "t principaelst beoogen".

As regards the ships where smuggling of cloths had previously been done, I knew in good faith that it had only been committed in the "Gulde Rhee", which was without the knowledge of the skipper Claes Jansz, as the factor drove the trade in the Benyn which was also declared by him; therefore no further proceedings were taken.

I have still found daily that since the seizure of the gold, and also the continually good supervision, the same that is brought down is much better than hitherto; but that anyone of our people had to do with it, I have never discovered and also cannot believe. But that it was previously made known by the ACANISTS and some of the inhabitants, is not incredible.

In my opinion YHH have conceived a wrong judgement about the goods bought in by Anthony Herweyer from Mr Opy, as the slaves have been traded by us from the Blacks for little less. It is true that they were bought by him at a lower price than he was obliged to sell them; but one must treat each other in a Christian manner.

As regards the slave trade, this has always been furthered by me as far as is in my power; but since September 1644 no yacht has ever appeared from Brazil to fetch them; and as to the "Gulde Rhee" and the "Leeuwinne", whether kept there or broken up (gesloopt) is unknown to us. We, having no suitable vessels here, have been obliged to sell at St Thomé.

I understand with great surprise the discontent about the alteration of the Price List (Marckt brief) on the arrival of the afore mentioned ship the "Star", which evil (ovel?  $\text{\textcircled{e}} = \text{euvel, kwaad}$ ), if it pleases the Hon Gentlemen that the English may sell their goods to their contentment (for they will never compel us to underselling) could have been prevented. Also it were quite practicable to stop the trade at all factories and <sup>to concentrate upon the arrival at CORMANTIJN</sup> "grasseeren de handtlichting eenlijk bij ons Party tot CORMANTIJN" (grasseeren is "to rage", Calisch: handtlichtinge is "het afstand doen van eene vordering of rechten", Verdam), but such will not profit in the Price List, nor also cause any less gold to be received; for all the traders from ANTEN, CHAMA, COMANY, MINA, CABO CORS, and MOURE, indeed to CRA inclusive will proceed thither with their gold, which would give a cause to the ACANISTS to take up their residence there, which, I suppose, is not YHH's intention. Therefore, in my judgment, it would be better, in those circumstances, , which also I have already carried into effect, to keep all the <sup>Company</sup> factories at a standstill and to do the underselling only at d'el Mina, in order to draw the traders there; which, in my poor judgement, would be advantageous for YHH. Also that some merchants or factors (coopluyden ofte Comissen) should have behaved badly in this "occasion" I can never believe, but I am well assured that ~~at~~ the informers of it as being ~~some~~ also some on the Coast have done it, but not for the injury of the Company or to enrich themselves but ~~that~~ so that at the last closing (Slodt. of the accounts?) the expenses would come out less and the chest (Cas) better, as appears in more detail in my previous accounts and in those I am now bringing over. It therefore seems inadvisable to bring them ~~it~~ into contempt by having the books continually examined about it, since such mistrust might easily cause something bad. If honourable colleagues are sent to the Coast, "twelck noch niet beter weet" no change would be produced "alwaer voorzichtig op gelet dient". Further, I must take it very much to heart to have to hear the great injury suffered through the Price List, since the instructions have always been to follow the English merchants' style, which so far as I know, I have continually sought.

As regards the complaints about me from the GUINEA COMPANY in London, that I should have tried to make a fortress between the village of CORMANTIJN and the English Fort, also to make them leave the Coast, this can never be proved with truth. But I have gone therein, as indeed previously written, and like as will appear from the attestation that goes herewith. I cannot understand (bevroede) that Mr Milsgrave has done that, as we have ~~have~~ been in agreement

with him and others, in good friendship; of which their own letters and Company servants can give evidence. I am not therefore troubled by all his unnecessary "bruljados".

Further as regards the Direction over the Island St Thomé, I have, as stated before, sent the yacht "Dolphyn" thither as soon as possible to Commander Mulder (with which a factor would have been sent but it had to be left because of incompetence and his time being up), with all the merchandise and some provisions (which agreed with the bills of lading) as it could load; with a letter and extract from YHH, with orders on coming to anchor to strike his flag and then hoist it again; which Commander Mulder has taken very ill, and written that he will not remain under my command, but it is done more from "oprokkinge als voor-sichticheyt".

As by the two "Eendrachts" only 43 soldiers have been brought to d'el Mina, and as many have completed their time and do not desire to continue, I have not been able to bring any to the Island this time (as I can make up no more than 14 guards (schildergasten) at a time.

As regards Jan Metcalf you will no doubt already have heard of his departure to Brazil. By the yacht "Visscher" appeared a former free merchant, Jacob Cloet, whom, on YHHs' order, I at once sent back to St Thomé.

In accordance with your memorandum sent of the mistakes and errors in the keeping of the books and accounts of the men in Guinea and St Thomé, these shall be rectified.

Coming now to reply to your letter of 6th July, I am glad to hear of the arrival of the ship "Haerlem". I hope the return cargo will be delivered according to the bills of lading.

As regards the affair of Terweyden, as he is dead, I shall let it rest.

And as regards skipper Dirck Pompe he has never appeared to us, therefore I am obliged to stop that also.

If we encounter any foreign ship or that of our nation with foreign potentates's Commission, which undoubtedly will not be lacking on the Coast of Guinea, we will act according to the orders given by YHH. As regards the Courlander, I hope what she traded has come into the Company's chest

A suitable "roeyfregate" which is highly necessary to supply the factories, ought to be sent by first opportunity in place of the yacht "Râael".

We have learnt with great regret of the delay and lack of diligence in the equipping of the various Chambers. If this continues it is to be feared that the Gold Coast will get entirely into loss, and it is highly necessary that 4 cargoes of f.180,000 be sent annually. That being done, I am confident you will remain the masters, but if it is taken in hand by force and not from love, it must undoubtedly come to a bad end.

In so far as by each ship and that 4 times a year, as much victuals are brought as per the list sent by (sic) YHH, the garrisons factories yachts and vessels can be properly fed with them; but for the soldiers it will not come well as the rations are small and the victuals usually old and nothing particular, and their weak stomachs will decline. This will undoubtedly cause many sick men (whom we seldom lack). But I consider that through failure to send, cost- [substance money] geld will still have to be often issued, which for a soldier, as everything is dear, cannot be fixed at less than one engel a week (ter weeck). As regards the equipage, it is impossible to make an accurate list for a fixed time, as on one voyage much, and on the other little, and now this, and then that is required. It must therefore be fixed somewhat at a guess, for which I ask excuse.

If YHH's orders are carried out and 50 soldiers are sent by each ship, namely 20 for D'El Mina and 30 for the Island St Thomé, we shall always remain well provided; but I doubt effect being given to it.

- His complaints about the medicines were not without reason.-

- About keeping continuing in good correspondence with the other conquests he has not been lacking, and also has no complaints about the other side.-

YHH very highly recommend the slave trade of Rio Furcado, but up till now, although the formula of what the King of OWERRÉ (Warri ?) himself requested was sent home more than 2 years ago, I have never seen any piece of it; and Brazil is now so filled with slaves from Angola, as appears that they keep the yachts there, that they desire no more from here. We shall be able to answer more fully about St Thomé afterwrads but it can be sufficiently provided from Arder,

the Bight and other places; because the Rio Furcado is very dangerous to navigate as the village where the trade must be driven lies quite 30 miles up the river, which through the great heat produces unhealthiness, which would carry off many men. About ~~this~~, which, this has been neglected up till now.

It is most highly necessary in order to keep religion in honour (if it be not done) that a good capable preacher be sent to d'El Mina. If Meyndert Heyndricks would let himself be employed again it would in my opinion be best.

In accordance with your orders I shall show the Chamber Zealand such bounden duty as Amsterdam has previously received.

The trade, since my last, has been sober, and not more than Mk.1,516: 5: 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  eng. traded along the whole Coast; arising firstly from various ACANIST disputes and the holding up of their gold against the arrival of the English; secondly through lack of current merchandise, so that at the Fort Axem we have received no more than Mk.36: 1: 2,3/4, of which the ACANISTS are not the cause but their own continual inland (inlantsche) disputes; about which it would not be inadvisable, in my judgement, to have it garrisoned as a Lodge with 8-10 men, to prevent expenses. At the Castle d'el Mina, Chama, Comany, and Cabo Cors, Mk.743: 7: 14 $\frac{3}{4}$  received, and if the equipage is not looked after better than hitherto, it will be better to abandon the three small (places), for through lack of merchandise they can never be supplied monthly with more than could bring in 8-10 marks each. At Fort Nassou received Mk.423:2; 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  and before COR-MANTIJN, before the port was abandoned, Mk.75: 2 oz. In the Lodge at Cra it has been very distinguished (deftig) for the circumstances of the time, and Mk. 238: 0; 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  engels traded there. If that port could be properly supplied with merchandise it could undoubtedly bring in 60-70 marks monthly; and various new ACANISTS from a certain village AQUEMA have sometimes appeared there, who have spent in a month 20-4 20-30, yea 40 marks of extremely fine gold. It was also found that some Acory, but not very fine, was to be obtained at a reasonable price, of which a trial will be made; so that out of that place, if goods are not lacking, something good is to be expected.

-He cannot at present report on Benyn as the return cargo not yet unloaded.-

The most current goods on the Gold Coast are chiefly, as before, lywaet, half-bleached, "rouhessens", sheets, serges,

*A note in handwriting of these former articles of the former trade -  
in the margin of which I have written some words to be inserted in the  
next book I entitled "Zijn Geschiedt der Faerdel-landt-... Gedichte"  
by W. B. van*

turkey tapijt carpetten & stuff, gefrisseerde deeckens, Haerlem cloths, tyken, small indian cloths, boatswains & gebrande knives, arm-rings, all kinds of copper & tin work, iron, orange lemon green striped past (patt?), white & violet p. ditto, mas (was?) goet, lang getig- gertigen (?), wit 4/m goet, olyf fatsoen. This merchandise, being in good condition, will soon bring up a good quantity of gold. Large & small anneaes, serge cloths, rapynen tot avans(?) are <sup>^</sup> little getrokken demand.

We will now return to the voyage; and there are going home by thses ships, at their request their time being up; lastly Chief factors Arent Cock and Jan Foullon, in whose places have been appointed Isaack Coeymans Bookkeeper, and Cornelis van der Cort factor from Axem. Also the Equippage Master Barent Jansz, replaced by skipper Harpertsz Claes Groenewout. Likewise skippers Albert Jansz & Meyndert Dircksz, in whose places come Cornelis Claesz Cock & Meyndert Lour-ense Swart. Also the sub-factors Jan van Sweden, Symon Rutgertsz and Mate Thys thyssen; all as per Resodution, who have performed their servise properly so far as is known. Also 43 soldiers, among whom 6 trein-gasten; leaving the fortifications and lodges garrisoned as follows, namely: d'el Myna 85: Fort Nassouw 38: Axem, 29: Chama 6: Cra 10: Comany and Cabo Cors one each: making altogether with the yachts "Fortuyn", "Dolphyn", "Visscher", and "Riael", 220 persons and 409 slaves, who are employed in the service of the Company at all the aforesaid places. [gunners?]

After we had parted from Fort Nassouw, on 22nd December, we have, through calms and contrary winds, without anything remarkable happening (but that skipper Jan Theunisse Botelier died on 1st January, in whose place was appointed the Equippage master Barent Jansen) on the 8th ditto come to anchor at St Thomé before the Castle St Sebastiaen, where we were requested by Captain Lourens Jacobsen, on behalf of Commander Milder to come on shore by boat, which was done at once, with the Fiscal, Arent Cock, and Jan Foullon.

... ..  
... ..  
...

Herewith &c faithful  
YHHS' obedient servant,  
(sgd) J. Ruichaver.

Actum in the ship "Eendracht"  
of Amsterdam the 22nd April  
Ano 1646, in the roadstead before  
Fort Margerita and river  
of Pariba.

Note, The Journal for the period 1st January to 31st March 1646, is not in the file, WIC.oc.11.

" (Copy) Continuation of the daily Journal sent to the Hon. Gentlemen at the Assembly of the XIX, by the yacht "Postpaert", departed from the Gold Coast on the 2nd April 1646."

April 1. (first entry).

April 2. The yacht "Postpaert" sailed for home via CRAA (to land some goods) and St Thomé.

[Simico]

April 4. ... The relatives of the Myner, struck dead by the people of SIMBI at the time the Fiscal and Coeymans had journeyed to FUTU on commission, trouble me so much daily that I take measures to obtain the delinquant so that they and I may get revenge over the suffered affront. Having considered this, sent an ACANIST to FUTU to tell the King to deliver the delinquant to me shortly, or I shall proceed in some other manner against him or those of SIMBI.

April 5. ... In afternoon at 1 o'clock the aforesaid ACANIST returns from FUTU and reports that the King had the delinquant in safe custody and was ready to deliver him into my hands on Monday or Tuesday next, provided the people of de Myna promise that they will not molest the people who bring him, "alwaer bescheyt op souden wachen". In evening at dusk see the sail sighted anchor a good way from the shore. The King of FUTU sent one of his people that I would present him with the usual dash (dasje) for the corn sowing, as the former Directors. Over this, sent him Mk.O: 2: 4 eng.

April 7. ... I send a second time the ACANIST, CORON-SKYN (\*) to the King of FETU to tell him my desire to receive the bringers of the delinquant who, as before stated, has killed a Mynaar.

April 8. (Sunday). In afternoon ~~comes~~ comes the aforesaid ACANIST back and says that the King promises to have the delinquant brought into the village of HINNEQUA to-morrow, in order to be brought from there hither by the ACANIST slaves. He requests that if he is executed, the dead body may be delivered to SIMBY to be buried. ...

April 9. ... The Captain of the ACANISTS, who had stayed 5-6 days at FETU, comes back and says that the King will, without fail, have the aforementioned delinquent brought into HINNEQUA'S village to-night and if I wished to have him fetched from there "om mijn volcomen voornemen mede te doen". The yacht 't"Leil", with 15 eaters, victualled for 30 weeks, will first call at CRAA and there hand over 2 cases lime, 1 keg "sement" and a mason, in order to repair the Lodge and then proceed to Behyn ...

April 10. Meeting of Council. Sentence on one man of forfeiture of 6 month's pay and to stand, for two consecutive days, for one hour with twelve bound muskets; and the other to forfeit 3 months' pay and to stand, as before, for one day.... About 10 o'clock was brought here by the ACANISTS a poor lean old man from the King of FETU, who they say was the person who, at the time Coeymans & the Fiscal were at FETU, had struck dead the Mynse Black. I had the Caboceers and Captains called in, who declared he was not the person, and they knew him very well. We examined the man brought and put before him that he was the person who had murdered the Mynaar. He declared he knew nothing about it, nay that he had neither shield asseguay nor sword with which to carry out that work. Truly they are great affronts which the King does to us with this, and at the opportunity ought not to be forgotten. I had the innocent man whom they had bound made ~~leave~~ <sup>leave</sup> and his escort (~~never~~) go. ...

April 11. ... A trusty Black brings us advice that the English daily bring their remaining goods on shore, consisting chiefly in lywaet. He gives us the assurance that he is still selling at 130 @pr Bende, but receives very little gold; and also issues "costgelt" monthly to the men as victuals are lacking.

~~April 12. - ~~... the ... of ...~~~~

April 14. ... Yesterday the Captains and Caboceers of d'el MYNA got secret warning from a Black that the people of FETU would attempt something to the injury of d'el Myna on the women who go for water in the mornings; therefore a captain and all chief officers with the men ~~of that~~ who belong to that Quarter have ~~conveyed~~ escorted the women to the water-place under arms. How this dispute will be settled must be awaited.

April 15. In morning at 6.30 a heavy tornado and rain. It is pitiable to see all the soldiers huts

and the warehouses are so leaky, which is not to be remedied unless the Hon. Masters provide us with lime and tiles. ...

April 16. ... A Commenda canoe carries some merchandise to COMANI. The Captains and Caboceers came into the Castle. Spent most of the day with them to decide some disputes that have arisen between the inhabitants. The ACANIST Captain reports that an ACANIST had come from ACANIE, who brings news that trade there is entirely at a stand-still and no sale of goods is to be seen because some difference has arisen between those who buy goods from them. ...

April 17. ... Received news from Mouré that an ACANIST named APOTEIJ had died. He brought down much gold in his lifetime.

April 18. ... This afternoon two old women came secretly to ask me if the brother of the lately defeated and killed (dood gesmeten) King of FETU (in whose place the present one rules) may come to me to speak about some matters: to which agreed. This brother, since the death of the old King, has stayed at SABOU.

April 20. It was reported to me that the oldest (senior) wife of the King of FETU had been at Mouré yesterday with many ACANISTS and a company of women to lament the death of the deceased APOTEIJ; on that account a slave was sacrificed on behalf of the King in honour of the deceased. Fear it will not stop at this, but on that occasion various slaves will yet have to perish; it is truly a horrible spectacle. ... To-day the outside slaves got on shore (from the yachts?) and begged that they might now be allowed for 4-5 days to prepare their land for sowing. That must necessarily be allowed, to help them to bread, as they receive little from the Company.

April 23. ... The Captains and Caboceers come up in order as they say to express sorrow for the deaths of so many people in so short a time (vide note at end of Journal), but chiefly to warm their insides (borst) with a little liquor. They complained that on the beach more and more (langer ende meer) gold comes (valt) among them; yea they do not know how to get enough good gold in order to buy a good cloth from us. I asked them how that happened (although I knew it well). They replied, because so many pieces-of-eight were brought by us and the English nation. I told them they must leave off buying the same: and thereby gave them express order that if any one, small or great,

Widely by  
Caboceers  
bad

came to them to offer or to sell them, that they were at liberty to accept them and to make no payment, but to keep them for their own and to point out the seller to me. That seemed to please them well. (Marginal note to above entry: "Quaet gout, de engelse en onse Natie vercoopen stucken van achten").

April 24. ... In afternoon, at 2 o'clock, saw a sail which an hour later observed was an Englishman. Coming about the roads, the Fiscal sailed on board. Meanwhile, a tornado arose with the wind from leeward (van onder op) so that it was obliged to anchor, but sailed again at 5 o'clock; and the Fiscal on shore at 7 o'clock, reports it was a small English ship from London, named "Isabelle", about 80 tons, with 12 guns, 35 eaters, had sailed now eight weeks & 2 days from the Downs. The skipper (factor) Robert Williams brings to the Coast a cargo also 100 p. serge, some iron, Irish cloths and timmerwerk, and offered to sell the same to me, and being assured of this had intended to lie till tomorrow; but the Fiscal told him that he did not believe I would buy, and therefore he set sail in order to sell his goods and then set course to the Calbarye for slaves, to carry them to Barbadoes. He informed the Fiscal he had sold a good parcel of arm rings at the windward coast places, also some to Whites; but observing that Caarlof was Fiscal he sought to talk that out of his head. Nevertheless we will not neglect to make enquiry and as soon as our canoe, which is gone to Axem for the Meester, comes back, to send the Fiscal up. He could not say that there was a ship of Mr Milgrave on the way to come hither, or was being fitted out (~~to make~~) in London; but only that he had seen an English ship under Cape Verde which was taking its course along the shore. For private news, that the troubles in England continued just as (~~not even~~) bitter against each other, and saw little chance of peace. He said further that he was at Lisbon when the news came that some Forts had been ~~annexed~~ (geincorporeert) by the Portuguese rebels in Brazil; that such had aroused rejoicings and victory had been burnt in all streets (sic, meaning bonfires?). I hope they will receive their worthy punishment.

Porter

captured ✓

April 26. ... Adriaen Donas (come out in "Zeelandia" in 1644) died at Mouré after 4 days' illness. ...

From FETU comes news that a great number of ABREBOUWERS had arrived to stir up the King to make war on the King of GREAT COMMANLY; which the brother of the King of FETU seeks to oppose and persuades his brother not to undertake this. Another portion of the ABREBOUWERS threaten ~~threaten~~ the FUTU King that if they undertake the war against TACY they will come and attack him unawares, How

[Alzrems]

on 26 April 26. In evening the small English ship Ray Caloe, Cape Cors, which got no further during the night because it was quite calm; but next day, 1st said to Commanly.

[side van]

this work will end, time will show. The principal traders at FETU, namely JAN HINNCQUA and JEAN CLAESZ, brothers, have me begged that I will devise some means yet to make peace between the MYNSE and FETUS. ...

April 27. ... An ACANIST, sent express by the Captain of the ACANISTS, as well as Captain QUAU, at present at Mouré comes with the report that the said Captains let me know that the English ship before mentioned had arrived at CORMANTIJN and apparently will give its goods at a reasonable price (coop); but they would use all their power to keep the other ACANISTS from that, therefore respectfully requesting that we would sell our goods somewhat cheap; to which we let them know that we could not decide, because of the little that the Englishman brought, to do the injury to my Lords and Masters, produced by selling cheaply.

April 30. Two letters from Chief factor Isaac Coymans, who has been at Moure since 28th ulto. Jan van der Cost is much weaker; and over this, decided to travel thither to-night with the Fiscal to give the necessary orders. Coymans writes that he has understood that the last arrived Englishman has landed his goods; whether he has sold them to Mr Milgrave or on what conditions, is not known; but whatever it is there, not much gold comes down there. The principal bringers down of gold at FETU, namely HENNEQUA and JAN CLAESZ, again send a message that means may yet be employed for peace between de Myna and FETU. The receipts of last month to 15th May, when accounts closed, were Marks 149: 6: 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

May 1. At 1.30 am left for Mouré by canoe with the Fiscal and Surgeon and arrived at 4 o'clock am, in order that everything might proceed in good order if Van der Cost came to die. The surgeon came to examine the sick, as they all lay sick there. From CORMANTIJN came news that the ACANIST, ADWOU, who in his lifetime stayed mostly at Mouré, died yesterday. He used to bring much gold with which to trade. Various Acanists and inhabitants came to welcome me, with the request that the merchandise might be sold somewhat cheaper, saying that gold would now begin to come down daily as some dispute that there had been for a long time in the interior was decided. I observed that there was some gold among the Mourees, but that they were very much afraid to spend it since they were confident, and on what Mr Milgrave had given out, that an English ship would arrive in a few days; and as, then, an alteration in the Price List (Markt brief) would very likely be made, they will buy at a better price. It is /'loze vont'

*unning plan*

which the Blacks have found, for some time past, to hold up their gold till the time of underselling. ...

May 2. ... The ACANISTS come to beg me a second time to sell the goods cheaper, protesting why we don't 130 @ Lywaet pr benda as the English. To which replied to them that I am indeed assured that the English give 130 @ pr benda, but that it is very bad and therefore they do not sell it. Finally they begin to ~~ask~~ ask that they may be given something as a present by me, which on many considerations I have not wished to pass over, and therefore presented them with an anker of liquor at 12 engels. At 10.30, factor Cornelis van de Cost died. - Body sent to Elmina for burial.- Wrote to Fiscal (at Elmina) to send canoe at once to Axem to bring factor Doeckes here; and a canoe goes to CRAA for factor Hogenhoeck, so that we can consult as to what is best for the Company.

May 3. ... Meanwhile JAN HENNEQUA of FETU back (achte-wegen) from the King, to beg me that peace might be made between DEL MYNA and FETU; which agreed to (aannam) ...

May 4. ... Some ACANISTS coming from CORMANTIJN report that Mr Molgrave wishes to take away from the Blacks the merchandise that they buy at the 3 slavers lying there; whereupon the factors of them tell the Blacks to come on board and what they so buy, they will bring on shore with their boats and release them from all damage. What will result from this time will show.

May 5. Left Mouré with Coymans, 10.30; arrived de Myna 1.30, where found the state very sad, 23 being very ill. At Mouré left 29 men, of whom 9 sick. The Captains and Caboceros come to greet me and to condole over the great mortality. I put before them that JAN HENNEQUA of FETU had been to me at Mouré and had asked for means to be devised how peace might be restored between them. The MYNSE remain obstinate and say that is not their intention, about which I have stoutly "beschroopt" them and said that if any misfortune overtakes the Mynse, they will be the cause of it. <sup>unpaid?</sup> Adjourned till Monday next. ...

May 6. In morning with opening of the gate, dispatched a servant to COMANY & CHAMA, in order to persuade ~~(de factor)~~ the factor Froen, notwithstanding that he daily suffers from languishing sickness and I have already allowed his discharge, to continue in the service of the Company for yet half a year. ... To the Commany factor ordered that when the yacht comes from Chama, to embark

all goods and merchandise and provisionally to abandon the Factory, provided he informs the Captain and Caboceros of it, which is not done through disfavour (~~congratulate~~) but through necessity, but not to say that we wish to abandon their post for always. Also ordered him to tell this, by express, also to the King TACY. (Marginal note to above entry, in another hand;- "Par faute van Comisen, Chama te verlaten, segge Comany te verlaten!")

May 7. - Six persons, chiefly soldiers, died within 24 hours at Elmina and Mouré.- ... Some messengers came on behalf of the old King's brother, to tell me that the said King's brother has allowed, and given gold for the purpose, the people of ATTY, SABOUW, and the King of COMANY, in order that they may together (~~met eenen hand~~) attack and drive away the King of FETU, and ask me very respectfully for powder and lead. Cannot agree to this and stoutly dissuade them from their intention, since nothing else is to be expected from this war but great prejudice to trade; and we do not thereby stand to get any better a King at FETU who will treat the ACANIST traders well. ...

May 8. ... A Black, named ADOEDE, comes by command of all the Mynse Captains and Caboceros, to offer to us that if I can resolve, to give into the hands of the "Fetich-eerder" 2 or 3 sheep, to sacrifice them to the devil, whereby, as they say, the deaths of our people will be remedied. This godless proposal is entirely rejected by me, according to bounden duty, and moreover the proposer punished and upbraided about it. ... - Suicide, by hanging, of the Consoler of the Sick, Adriean Laurensz, who was ill, in his room.- Buried on the French battery to-day.- The yacht "Reaal" brings all the goods and "leggers" from COMANY. The Chief Factor, Joris van Hogenhoeck, came at the closing of the gate from CRAA, on my summons. Reports that there it is no longer to be endured with the Blacks there, as they are daily so importunate about presents.

May 11. -Meeting of Council as per resolution. - Factor Doecques arrives from Axem.-

May 12. ... The Caboceros come to visit me and express their sorrow at the great mortality which daily befalls us. I put before them that I would like to see peace made between them and FETU, as has been accomplished between FETU and GREAT COMANY. They now appear to be more willing for this than before.

May 13. In morning departs pr canoe, Fiscal Hendrick CAARLOF to CRAA, in order, according to previous

resolution to take over the office of Chief Factor, and Joris van Hogenhoeck to Mouré for same purpose. In the afternoon appears the ACANIST QUAU, Captain over those here, (reporting) that all the ACANISTS who have for so long usually stayed at Mouré had fled to Cormantijn from fear of the mortality that had befallen both the Whites and Blacks there. (Note. This report confirmed by letter from Hogenbroeck on 17/5.).

[transcribed]  
to a date  
C. 1646

May 18. ... The King of FETU sent by some Acanists a Black to be put to death in requital for the 4 Mynse women and a man whom the FUTUERS had smitten dead, as previously referred to. I at summoned the Caboceros, who at once "hem te boom wilde" (wanted him hung?), and then afterwards to speak about the King paying yet a large sum amend in gold. Examined the person brought, who acknowledged that he had cut off the head of one of the massacred women, as he had been sent out for that purpose by the King's son. I had him put in the cell and stipulated that HENNEQUA and JEAN CLAESZ should come here to see the dispute settled.

May 20. Whitsunday. Much rain. In afternoon, the yacht "Reaal" arrives, bringing the gold received from CRAA and MOURE. The skipper reports that 2 small English ships, that had sailed from Cormantijn, had lain there for 2 days without doing anything, nor receiving gold. The Blacks are timid of sailing to such ships for fear of that they will be carried off. One of these English had been on shore and asked the sub-factor to be allowed to come into the Lodge, which had been refused him; but understand that the smaller of these two ships will sail to <sup>the</sup> Benyn, in order to provide Molgrave's yacht with men.

May 24. ... The Assistant Cornelis der Gardijn, comes on my summons from Craa (sic), reports on behalf of Factor Joris van Hogenhoeck, that nearly all the western turret (round bastion) had fallen down (restort) into the moat; which grieves us extremely, as it lies so open and we can give no help in men ( This clearly refers to Moure Fort). ...

May 26. In morning, all the Captains and Caboceros came up to greet me and expressed sorrow about the great loss in people. They sought to understand from me whether it is true that the King of FETU had had the ACANISTS told that he does not wish them to come here



Continuation of the Journal last sent by the ship "Haerlem", of Amsterdam, & now begins on 1st June 1646. [sic. oc. 11].

June 1. The "Haerlem" sailed for home at 12.30 am, with 28 eaters & 22 guns, leaving us with 137 persons on shore, both "treyns gasten" and soldiers. Hope the Hon. Gentlemen will shortly send us relief. Letter from Chama that a large part of the southern walls had fallen down, which is not to be remedied in the time of these rainy months. From Mouré come urgent complaints that it is no longer possible to relieve the guards which are already so weak, and still more men fall into the sick bay (Coy). God grant that the yacht "Reaal" may shortly complete its voyage from Axem, to bring down 10-12 men for the reinforcement of both Del Mina and Fort Nassouw. [artillery men - gunners 1]

June 2. ... JAN HENNEQUA and JAN CLAESEN let me know that they would have come here already, but that as a principal ACANIST has died there, they are obliged to delay for 5 or 6 days yet.

June 3. ... A reliable Black, named Jantje, living at CORMANTIJN, comes to inform us that the English ship will shortly leave, and that Tymon Molgrave is taking much trouble to dispose of his bad lywaet at 130 @ pr benda; and that he has not more than 5-6 cases. This advice, and more got from him is servicable to the Company, consequently, presented him with 8 oz.

June 6. In morning come the returns of sales from CRAA, since 15th May, consisting in 19 Marks. The Fiscal (Caarlof, then stationed there) complains very much about the Amsterdam lywaet that he has now first opened and finds so bad. The Caboceros have thankfully accepted the present of 3 ounces lately sent them, but had hoped that it would have <sup>been</sup> somewhat more.

~~Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.~~

~~Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.~~

~~On the 12th June a vessel arrived from the coast of the island of Java with news that the English had sailed from the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June; that they had sailed for the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June.~~

June 12. Heavy rain most of last night (frequent entries of rain in May & June). In afternoon understand from Blacks that Mr Mulgrave had sailed yesterday.

June 13. In morning at 11 o'clock, on their previous request, the Captain and Caboceros come up, ~~and they were told that they were to be taken to the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June; that they had sailed for the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June.~~ told them if they had anything to say, to do it tomorrow before sermon. They ~~appeared to be very much surprised at the news that they were to be taken to the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June; that they had sailed for the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June.~~ departed. A Black from CORMANTION buys 238 iron staves from which I can definitely conclude that the English are out of them. The Blacks cannot yet resolve to buy lywaet of which we are mostly supplied at this market price, notwithstanding that we observe that they th very much needed them. God grant that no English may shortly appear, in order to break the market.

June 14. In morning appear the Captains and Caboceros in "comptent" number, ~~and they were told that they were to be taken to the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June; that they had sailed for the coast of the island of Java on the 10th June.~~ They began their proposal, saying that they had understood that a principal Black of FETU, named JAN HENNEQUA, will come here to-day to negotiate and give satisfaction for the affronts done to del Myna concerning the 4 wemen Mynse wemen and one man, previously so shamefully massacred without reason. Although it is true that they have, on the one hand, put the FETU man to death, which they put against the one man, there remains the satisfaction for the four before mentioned wemen. I sought as much as possible to induce them to be moderate, and to consider that they have to do with a King who could cause them much evil and also that it was my utmost desire that trade should suffer no prejudice; strongly impressing upon them that we had not come here to catch flies (vliegen te vangen), but to further trade, whereby the expenses that are daily made to them may be increased. They, observing how I was inclined, express themselves willing as much as possible to act according to my advice wishes, and so the matter was adurned till the arrival of HENNEQUA.



The following, omitted from p. 69:-

June 5. This morning received, by canoe, a letter from Tymon Molgrave, English factor. Reports he intends to depart within 2-3 days and offer to take home any letters. I thought it not inadvisable to write a <sup>short</sup> letter to the XIX to give information of our needs, but not to refer to our further state. This letter goes under cover to Mr Wm van der Heyde, Director at Middelburgh, so that the English should not break it open.

June 18. This morning, after having done some trade with JAN HENNEQUA, he asked that the dispute between the Mynse and Fetuers might be settled so that everyone may freely travel hither as he pleases. Have had the Captains and Caboceros summoned for tomorrow.

June 19. In morning appear the Captains and Caboceros of Myna with the envoy sent on behalf of the King of FETU, assisted by the Captain of the ACANISTS, to decide the disputes, arisen a long time ago, between the parties. Having taken the proceedings in hand, the people of del Myna claimed that for the affronts suffered both by the killing of their people and otherwise, the King and his subjects ought to be condemned in 15 Bendas gold; and if they will not undertake to pay this, the paths shall again be closed, and each remain in his own district. The envoy, Jan Hennequa claims that this demand is unfounded, but acknowledges some guilt. Meanwhile, various discourses on either side, and so the matter was adjourned. ...

June 20. A meeting of the Captains and Caboceros again held to put an end to the affair with FETU. Those of Del Myne would have no reduction in the demand made yesterday, so I had to address them with threats that if the path was again closed and no traders came here, I would not pay them the present (dasje) from new coming ships. After many hard words on both sides, I brought the matter so far that the King of FETU shall pay to those of De Myna a penalty of 11 Benda gold on the understanding that 1 ounce in liquor was added to it by me, which was notified to the envoy Hennequa, who accepted the same subject to the approval of the FETU King. God Almighty grant that they may live long in peace and that trade may suffer no prejudice. Upon this, 2 flasks liquor drunk, and friendly leave-taking from each other till tomorrow. I have to-day had the pavement of stones, on the westerly landward battery, taken up in order to raise it, as it has greatly sunk and makes many

(that the pavement is not, but of mud mixed)

and made many uneven places, so that the ~~gi~~ guns could not point out of the loop holes.

June 21. This evening an express came from the King of FETU, with approval of what had been done here by the Envoy Hennequa. ...

June 22. This morning I called together the envoy of the King of FETU, the Captain of the Accanists, together with the Mynse Captains and Caboceros to confirm with oaths the peace between both parties, made the day before yesterday, which was done in the following manner:- First came the Mynse Captains, each separately, and touched my head with their hands, promising to watch them and to exhort the community ~~not to get into~~ that they may not get into any contention with the FETU people. The envoy Jan Hennequa did likewise. After that, their oath was confirmed by some of the principal Mynse Caboceros, who were cut on the upper part of the hand with a knife so that the blood came. This also was done by the Envoy Hennequa, and the Captain of the Accanists as mediator; upon which followed the usual blessings (segeningen) on either side. At once had the peace cried and made known to all. Hennequa promised to pay the 11 bendas within 10 days, and left shortly afterwards for Fetu. Got definite news from ~~Comentijn~~ that the party had drawn in the lywaet 10 @ pr benda, as he sees that we do not follow him against 136 @, but this could well tend to bad "vaert" seeing that the lywaet is very bad and is getting spoiled (?).

June 24. Sunday. In afternoon came the Captain of the Accanists came up and says that he had got a trader at his house who had 3-4 marks in gold, to buy lywaet. He very urgently requests that we will reduce the price somewhat, not doubting that the Accanists will then resolve to buy the lywaet. I have refused him this; but have told him this much, that if he and Jan Hinnequa and Jan Claess can bring it about, as they are the biggest traders, that the lywaet can be "getrocken" against 104 @ pr. benda, that I will then make them a present of one mark [gold]; for this ought to be considered by all Regents to be better for the Company to give a small present to the principals than "risigh van marct". Dito captain agrees to take the same in hand. We consequently await the effect "en sober op belofte".

(accused)

raising the price

أحمد بن محمد  
الملك  
الملك  
الملك  
الملك

17-10-17

مجلس  
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June 25. - Dispute between a Company slave and some Mynse about the ownership of a sheep ~~for~~...

[The one who should have a share of the pasture should have the goat?]

After hearing witnesses on either side, could come to no decision but that "met steenen soude werpen en wie van beyde partyen d' Hoochste ogen had, sal cabriet genieten," which fell to the Company slave. Towards evening the Captain of the ACANISTS appears with bringing with him 1 oz: 4 engs gold, in which (he) was condemned for the poor. One of the Captains of Myna, named Aboe, some time ago at a full meeting of the council of Caboceros dared to speak the following words against me:- If I would not support the Mynse in their intention which was to make war against the King of FETU they must seek other friends; which is not to be tolerated, by me to hear. About which, at the time, I forbade him to appear at the meetings of the council before he should have paid 4 oz: 4 eng.

June 26. In morning comes news from Cormantijn that one part of the village had it in mind, to with the help of the FANTYNS, to expel the Captain, named AMADOUW, which the other part sought to oppose. All the ACANISTS there, with their wives, have taken flight to FANTYN and the Cormantijn women to ANAMABOE, AJANASSIANGS, & MOURE.

[Amshiang]

This tumult had arisen chiefly out of a private matter between the aforementioned Amadou and one Maerten Coenen. How the affair will end, time will show. ~~The company is to be kept sitting in the order chamber for a short time, to complete the business of the company.~~ Have had fine weather for 4-5 days. The rainy season is mostly over.

June 27. In morning assurances were given us that the Captain of Cormantijn had been expelled and had taken flight to Mouré with his followers; but before removing they had hacked to pieces all the canoes that belonged to the Quarter of MAERTE COENE. In short, the devil earns his bread lustily in this country. The Captains & Caboceros come up and ask to be allowed to a portion of the penalty of Aboe; which I have refused them from fear that they ["den Capt Aboe voren van gevoert (geroert?) soude toe-steechen."] The same Aboe appears again in council and asks pardon, which was granted him, and all the Captains & Caboceros were read a lesson that noone should be persuaded to such statements as this Aboe has made, with warning that they would not be treated so graciously as now treated.

~~The Captains and Caboceros, who yesterday were assembled in council, were read a lesson that noone should be persuaded to such statements as this Aboe has made, with warning that they would not be treated so graciously as now treated.~~

[Having been previously punished by Capt Aboe, would have been over to him]



sent an express canoe from Cormantijn with the request that our surgeon might come there to visit their preacher who lay mortally sick; who left at 11 o'clock with instructions to keep a sharp look out whether he can see if the party has much lywaet as also other merchandise. The Captain & Caboceros come to see me about various matters, upon which I gave the necessary orders. The King of Sabou sent me a present, with his welcome, of 1 sheep, 6 fowls, and a pot of wine, for which I sent a "cerpet" of 12 engs., in recompence.

June 30. ... From CRAA come the June monthly sales, consisting in 36 Marks; 7 oz: 8 eng. The Fiscal (at Craa) reports that his sub-factor Reynier Carstensz is sick. ... The Receipts for the month were Mk-126:02 Mk.126: oz.6: eng. 2 ~~1/8~~ ~~1/8~~. (~~2-1/8~~)

July 1. (Sunday). An English yacht arrived at Cormantijn Blacks-who from London, for slave trade in the Calbary and the Bight.

July 2. This morning all the Cormantijn Blacks who came here, went out of the village to consult whether they shall leave for Cormantijn again, or not; as the people of FANTYN, ~~who come to see me~~, strongly urge them to come there; but understand that they have not yet come to that resolution. ... (~~Firewood from Chama~~) ...

July 3. -Another English ship "Golden Star" from London arrived at Cormantijn, full of Coast cargo.-

July 4. In morning came all the fugitive Cormantijn Caboceros and Captain, and represented that they had heard that I would depart to Del Myna to-morrow, and as they would henceforth now shelter under my wings, I would ~~remember~~ remember them with some "dash" (Gasje). Replied that that was not my intention, but when one year had passed and they would also sign and promise to fulfil any Articles that I shall propose to them, that "ik alsdan 't ook op haar sal hebben". With which they had to be satisfied; nevertheless with long begging they were given a cloth of 4 eb engels to drink; which for the good of the Company I also had to ~~do to the~~ and to give to the Captain of the ACANISTS and company, 8 engels for drink. ... Got advice from Chama, via de Myna that there had sailed past a new ship from home, named St Pieter from Rotterdam, which comforted our sadness. Therefore resolved to-night to sgil by canoe to that ship, which, the Blacks who brought the letter said, was near to the roads.

July 5. In morning at 4 o'clock, departed per ~~esnee~~ large canoe from Mouré to windward. At 7 o'clock came to the newly arrived ship, named "St Pieter" on behalf of the Chamber on the Mase; sailed out on 9 May; brings a cargo of f.248,479: 2: 0; mounted with 16 ~~guns~~ iron and 8 brass guns; 100 men, among whom 50 sailors for the ship 20 soldiers for the shore, and 30 soldiers and sailors for for St Thomé, with a cargo for that Island of f. (sic). Thanks and praise to God, this ship comes at a very fine season in order to oppose the English party with underselling, for which we are now well armed; ~~but~~ we doubt not that we shall receive large sums of gold as the Blacks have held up their gold for a long time and long hoped to buy cheap, which now happens according to their wish. I at once proceeded to examine in the letters received from the Lords and Masters, and the provisions come to us, being surprised that we received no letter from the Assembly of the T XIX. We should also have made a distribution, with the Factors now here, in order to supply each factory, but seeing the confused state of the Invoices, we could not do so, as we could not find how much each case contains. Therefore each the cases will have to be brought on shore, and each opened, case by case, which otherwise could have been shipped by the yachts; which will cause much trouble. Observing that <sup>note on</sup> ~~"bokende Cheneese Cheneese"~~ had come by this ship, and having understood from the skipper that there had been little supervision in their regard, about this, and my sickly condition, decided to let the Fiscal come up from CRAA as quickly as possible. ...

great a  
sell know  
Smugglers

July 6. ... In afternoon arrives the yacht "Dolphyn" bring with it as return cargo, 5278 lb. elephants' tusks; 56 p. Quaqua cloths; 14 eng gold; besides 1600 (?) Arder slave men and women, delivered to Commander Mulder. Consider the death of Factor Hasemberch will be injurious for the Company, as now there is not one on the Island who understands the trade. Therefore summoned down Factor Doeckes, stationed at Axem, as he is the most competent, to send thither from here. It is a wonder that the gentlemen do not take better care to send competent Factors here, ~~for~~ by the ship this ship, but only one sub-factor comes among the Assistants, whom we have to train. But each Chamber is afraid to have the charge of monthly salaries. Meantime on the other hand, "the pigs run gaily into the corn" (varkens loopen dapper in't coren).

July 7. Some wet provisions sent on shore. The Equipage Master goes on board to get the ship to

sail to the proper anchorage, as she lay rather too far from the shore; which was done in the afternoon. I had two slaves, in whom I have some confidence, come on board to assist in preventing any goods, but the Company's, go on shore, for we find we are greatly deceived in employing soldiers who already let themselves be corrupted by Jan Hagel; with threats that I would have their heads cut off if I got to know that they had allowed themselves to be bribed or received any presents from anyone to overlook anything; but on the other hand if they serve faithfully, I would give each a fine cloth and their wives a sheet. They make great promises and I await the effect. At night when the first watch was nearly over the Blacks came to warn me that three canoes were hovering about the ship in order to get some goods. I went out of sleeping berth (Cox) although very sickly and searched along the gallery (overloop) with Jeremias Loten till we came past the bitt (betingh), where we found 6 kegs beads, so it appeared, and 7 pieces serge, which I had brought into the cabin. One of the Blacks above saw four more kegs, as before, After further search, and finding nothing more to be obtained, went back to the cabin, very tired.

July 8. In morning, engaged in keeping sharp supervision at the unloading that no private merchandise was put in the boats. In afternoon at 2 o'clock, appears the Fiscal, to whom communicated various matters and how best to get at the "~~saccerij~~", for which the keeping of good watch at night is necessary.

July 9, 10, 11, 12. [Dir. Gen. went on shore on 9th. Further entries of unloading of ship and finding of private goods, about which the cook's mate (Cocks maet) put in the powder chamber.-]

July 14. This morning a meeting of all Captains and Caboceros, where appeared an envoy on behalf of the BRAFFO of FANTYN, for the making of peace between both parties over some dispute which they have had with each other for some time. So it is agreed that the MYNSE fishermen may freely have their residence (zit plaats) in the territory of the BRAFFO, extending from AJANESIANGH to LAETPOU. This peace was cried through the village. A large canoe departs to Mouré with merchandise from del Myna. Are daily busy carefully unloading. Fiscal Caarlof ~~reperta~~ comes on shore and reports he has obtained 2 kegs beads.

July 16. Factor Heyndrick Froom, at Chama, transferred to

Axem, vice Reynier Doecques, transferred to St Thomé.

July 17. In morning the empty canoe came back from Mouré Hogenhoeck (d'advise that the last arrived English yacht does its best to come upwards. Believes it wishes to come before CABO CORS (vertrouwd d'wil voor C.C.heeft) The skipper had been on shore at Mouré, and the factor had asked for 2 casks water which had been given him. ...

July 18. The Fiscal Caarlof came on shore having examined all quarters of the ship. Instructed him to institute proceedings in respect of the goods found by me and him. The expelled Captain AMADOUW appears here with his followers and slaves, to speak to me about their matters; but having other business on hand, he will come before me to-morrow. Understand that the other Caboceros who have fled from CORMANTIJN besides him, will depart again to Cormantijn.

July 19. On opening of the gate comes Joris van Hogenhoeck, on my summons, into the Castle. ... Reports that the English yacht, seeing no chance of coming up, had dropped down again to Cormantijn. After dinner convened the Council and first deliberated over the private goods caught both by me and the Fiscal, amounting to 25 marks, 2 engels; which by a majority of votes, were declared forfeited. ...

July 24. ... One of the principal Blacks of CRAA, named ST JAGO, came to visit me 3-4 days ago, and wished me success in the government. This Black, according to the testimony of Joris van Hogenbouck and Fiscal Caarlof, is very helpful to our Nation, in what we may be lacking: also, so they say, brings 1/3 of the gold that comes down, and never have been able to observe that he goes (~~away, and~~) to foreign nations. Presented me with an extraordinarily fine sheep, so that for various considerations, in the interests of the Company, could not let this person depart without giving him a present of 6 "pees" for himself and his company. The King of JABIJ and the people of Chama sent some deputies with presents from both places, 4 sheep, and greetings from the King and Caboceros. Presented them with liquor and they left till tomorrow when they will tell the reason of their coming here, ~~to which it is not to be doubted that it will be a great benefit.~~

July 25. ... To-day a <sup>definite agreement</sup> complete contract was made with the expelled Captain of Cormantijn and some of

his followers, that he shall come and live here at del Myna; for which purpose we have appointed a place across (~~Lower~~) the river, in the hope that there will ~~be~~ a new village of CORMANTIJNS and ACANISTS will be ~~raised~~ <sup>established</sup> (~~unfoccken~~) there. Some expenses were incurred over this to the charge of the Company, as presents, consisting in 1 "carpet" 5 sheets, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  anker liquor, amounting to 0: 1: 10 eng. were given to the said Captain and his Company. ... In evening AMADOU leaves for Mouré in order to tell his people (gesellschaft) what contract he has made with me.

July 27. ... The JABIJ Blacks, assisted by the Chamas, come up, stating from the mouth of the King & Caboceros of both places that they received no present on the departure of the Hon. Mr Huychaver, nor have received anything since my government; they therefore respectfully requested to be treated as other places along the Coast. Having considered their request and that we often have need of (~~een doen hebben~~) this river in order to cut wood, which on many occasions we cannot miss, presented them with 2 oz. merchandise.

July 28. In the morning came the Black, named Jantje, from CORMANTIJN whom we employ in order to learn the state of the English with convenience (~~gelegenheit~~): reports that the party have a good assortment of everything, but because of the heavy seas for some time past they have little goods on shore yet. Seeks to sell trade the most current goods at present desired by the Blacks at these prices namely, iron at 3 engels; sheets 20 P. pr benda; boatswains knives 20 (?); but lywaet it appears they will let come at 130 @ pr benda, whereas we give 136 @. The Black declares as the truth that they have yet received little gold. On this report and since the Black boldly ~~complains in~~ <sup>states his</sup> hatred of the English "ge-recht", I have, as the Company is much interested in such reports, presented him with 8 engels. Received letter from CHAMA that 5 days ago a trader from EDOM had been to del Myna and spent Mk.1: oz.7: eng.12. with which his intention had been to leave for EDOM. Coming to the paths from JABIJ, the JABIJS took everything from him & wounded his brother. I am not pleased about this, having lately given them presents; but ~~hearing~~ <sup>stating</sup> having heard that the JBAIJS had not yet left, I summoned them into the Castle, and without them knowing anything about what had happened, told them (I) was very perplexed, not being satisfied that this had been done with the knowledge of the King of JABIJ, have kept them under arrest, and sent one of them to JABIJ with a Caboceros of del Myna and a Company slave to learn the reason of this. ...

July 30. -The "Dolphyn" despatched with goods, Factor Doeckes and 16 soldiers and sailors to St Thomé and to fetch 150 slaves from the Calbary for that place. The Fiscal goes to CRAA <sup>about 10m.</sup> for some merchandise. In evening the Axem canoe arrived with Assistant Gelendonck whom we intend to place at CABO CORS.

August 1. Received letter from Froom at Axem, by canoe, reporting that on the 30th he sighted a sail which found to be a fluyt; and on going to it was told it came from GOTTENBORCH, having no Coast, but a Bight, cargo in order to get slaves; intended to set course along the coast to sell his private goods, and also to touch at St Thomé to see if he can do any trade with the Portuguese. On this advice, called in Factor Coijmans, Jeremias Loten, and the Equippage Master to hear their advice. Have found good to cause the Fiscal, who yesterday departed for CRAA by the yacht "Dolphyn", to come here as quickly as possible, and to send the Equippage Master to CHAMA to keep a look out and on sighting the vessel to board her and make enquiries.

*Louis de Searé*  
*Sup.*  
*[St-Jacoba.]*

August 2. ... The Blacks who come from windward inform us that the aforesaid ship is lying anchored before TACCORARY. We are ~~read~~ completely ready to sail up quickly. In trade, nothing particular happens. To-day departs Jan Gelendonck Assistant to CABO CORS, in order to take charge of that factory as sub-factor, and will infuture be increased from f.12, per month to f.20. The sub-factor stationed there, Gerrit van Tets will take charge of the factory Chama, for which he will earn f.30 monthly.

August 3. In morning at 6.30. the Equippage Master came back. Reports ... that the Baas had been on board the Fluyt coming from Taccorary, and on return reported it was a Fluyt; the Captain, very well known to him, named ARENT GABBES, who had sailed out of the Vlie to GOTTENBURCH on 13 April ... and had sailed from GOTTENBURCH on 12 May; declared he had no coast cargo, but some liquor on his private account; but intended to go to the Calbary or Angola for slaves and then to sail to the Cribbes Islands; about 150 tons; 39 eaters; 16 iron guns; provided with a Swedish Commission. Most of the crew consisted in Hollanders. ... This ship anchored before COMPANY. -

*[Caribbean]*

August 4. In morning about 10 o'clock the Fiscal arrived from CRAA ... reports further that ~~at~~ <sup>hardly any</sup> ~~most~~ no gold was received there this <sup>(last)</sup> month, because the

sub-factor Reynier Carstenz had rebuked (beschroëde) a Black who brought  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. false gold. It appears he must have been a friend of some Caboceros or other of CRAA, who made complaint to the King; whereupon the King forbade trade; but it is hoped that it will now be done. ... At 3.30 arrives the Swedish ship. Fires several salutes to which replied with a few. Anchors somewhat above the ship "St Pieter". We had hoped he would have come on shore by his boat, but went (??) sails to the ship "St Pieter" about 5 o'clock.

August 5. - After deliberation with various of the Company servants, it was decided to do no hostilities against the Swedish ship Fluyt, as it would be of no benefit to the Company, and so as to cause no difficulty to the Company; but to make suitable protest to the skipper Gabbes to-morrow. ... Received letter from Skipper Gabbes offering to sell some cargo - about 150 ankers liquor and 1,000 pond beads.

August 6. By large canoe from the shore with the Fiscal Factors Coymans, Hogenboeck, and Jeremias Loten and Equipage master, to the ship "St Pieter" ... Meantime Arent Gabbessen came on board and we took his ~~met~~ business in hand with the Councillors, in the cabin. Questioned Gabbessen by what authority he came to anchor in these roads, as we knew that most of his crew were Hollanders by birth, or at least resident within the United Provinces, and so might not come within the limits of the Charter granted to the West Indian-Company or the Amplifications thereof. He declared he did it on the authority of his Commission and "vrij brieven", ~~copy of which he~~ granted by the Queen of Sweden ... copy of which he showed us. On asking to see the original, he sent his boat to fetch it, which brought it, and we inspected it, and saw the signature of the aforementioned Queen whom, Gabbessen declared he had seen when signing it. The seal of the Crown of Sweden was impressed thereon in red wax covered with white paper. ... Told Gabbessen that although his Commission appeared to be good, our intention was to take off from his ship all inhabitants residing "onder regard van" the Ho. Mo. States, in virtue of the Charter. To this he replied "If you take my men, take my ship and goods too" (~~met een~~). Upon which being deliberated, and everything taken into consideration, & specially the consequences of depriving him of his men, and otherwise, we proceeded on shore towards evening, ~~without company~~.

August 8. A - The Council order confiscation of 45 ankers liquor found on the "St Pieter" & reported

[Christina]

to have been bought from the crew of Arent Gabesen Gabbesen; 1/3 for the Company, 1/3 for the Fiscal, 1/3 for the poor. Arent Gabbesen goes on board and says he will sail to-day.

August 9. In morning the Swedish ship, "St Jacob", sails, but first proceeding seawards, could not see if she would anchor at other places along the Coast.

August 12. In morning with the opening of the gate appears the English Preacher, saying that he has been sick for some time, and now he finds himself somewhat more robust he has come to visit us. Advises that Arent Gabbesen arrived before Cormantijn on Friday last, and sought to sell some liquor. To-day married (troude) Jan Wolf Jongman to Tryntgen(?) Hendricxz, widow of Jan Suyrman. In afternoon comes a Black from Cormantijn who reports that Arent Gabbesen had sailed yesterday. From CRAA comes a letter that the "Commandeur" is behaving very badly (~~to the Blacks~~) and has again forbidden the Blacks to trade with us. What will happen, time will show.

August 16. An express canoe appears from CRAA with letter from the Fiscal in which he reports the "importuniteit" of the Blacks there, by closing the trade; and the means he has resorted to in order to open it, and before coming to that, it has cost the Company more than one mark gold. By returning letter I have given orders how he must act in future in that case. ...

August 18. ... Made a searching enquiry from an ACAN-IST trader if he could give sufficient reasons why no more gold came down, since everything was now to be obtained at a reasonable price. He gave as a reason that the goods which were bought by them here had little sale in the interior; and also that a certain slave in ACANY had murdered his master, and fled into the district and to those to whom ~~th~~ who buy their goods, without them being able to get the slave. From this, he presumes, arises the shutting off of the gold coming down, since the buyers fear that they will be seized by the ACCANISTS. This, so far as I can understand, is this Black's reason why gold does not come down.

August 19. (Sunday) ...

August 21. ... Six deputies on behalf of the BRAFFO of FANTYN appear with the offer of presents of 3 sheep, and will come tomorrow, with the Caboceros of Myna, to tell me for what purpose they have come. I

replied that I thanked them for the offer from the BRAFFO, but that I would not accept the sheep till I had heard their proposition. With that they left.

August 22. <sup>[Thus]</sup> This morning, after service, appeared the Captains of del Myne and the six aforementioned deputies, and after greetings, made the following proposal:- That they appear on behalf of the BRAFFO of PANTYEN ENTYEN, the ACANISTS at CORMANTIJN, and the people of the village of ANNEMABO situate  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile (myl) above Cormantijn, in order to appease the differences which the Company has had with the BRAFFO and the ACANISTS at CORMANTIJN, from which has arisen that we have removed both ships & yachts from before the port of CORMANTIJN. They see that we continue in this, but nevertheless they very greatly desire that they may enjoy such again. And in case we consider that such ships cost too much in expenses for our Masters, then they make the proposal and request, by order of the BRAFFO, ACANISTS, and the people of ANNEMABO, that if the Company is pleased to establish a Lodge either at CORMANTIJN or ANNEMABO, it will be highly pleasing to them; they therefore begged that we would accept the three accompanying sheep. Having heard their proposal, replied thus;- As so many affronts had been done to us by the said BRAFFO, and on several occasions appeared with great ~~leugeningen~~ <sup>(verscheyden stonden met groote leugeningen-leugenen gepaijt)</sup>, we could not therefore attach any value to this new proposal, nor rely upon it; and as we had left their port  $\frac{1}{2}$  years ago, and did not observe that injury to the Company had resulted, but profit had thereby been made, we could not therefore resolve to grant their request; but would keep the matter under consideration (advys houden) till the arrival of the first ship from home, for on his arrival, Mr Ruychaver would make verbal report to the Directors "ten dien myne" <sup>and about the reasons why he has left the port.</sup> If the Hon gentlemen thereupon give orders to trade again at their port, we shall act accordingly; but I trusted that they would leave it to me, as I found best for the Company. To this reply, they still more beg and entreat again that that we would agree, by saying further that if we were willing to plant the Arms of the States General or of the Company at CORMANTIJN or ANNEMABO, we might freely do so. To this I told them that it would be bad ~~(nutteloos)~~ for us to do so as they have already allowed this to the English. They replied that they had nothing to do with the English in this regard, and that they could do what they liked in their own country. I accepted the 3 sheep that they had presented to me, for various reasons in order to show them that they were not entirely without hope, as I do not

untwibo /

about it or /  
about it /

know how the wishes of the Hon. Gentlemen might afterwards fall out. They hereupon dispersed, to pay me a second visit tomorrow; but chiefly to see what presents would be given them in return for the 3 sheep. ...

The reasons why the deputies make such strenuous intercession to have a ship or yacht, or for a Lodge to be made, which I give in this Journal, are these:-

The BRAFFO of FANTYN has formerly always received from the Company, if any new ship arrived from home, ~~the welcome of that which imported for the first time,~~ <sup>the welcome of which, for the first time, some amounted to</sup> (de welcomst van dien dat voor eerst importee importeerde) 2 oz: 4 eng. for each ship; and further extraordinary presents that occurred thereon (~~daerop loopen~~) "see" to the Captains and Caboceers; and, what is still much more, the a toll from the Blacks who bought our goods; which are now greatly missed since, (and especially if the English are not supplied with any current wares) the gold coming from the ACANISTS who live at CORMANTIJN, is diverted to MOURE; and from this therefore he receives no toll because the goods are taken away through the Kingdom of SABOU; wherefore on this account he is deprived of it. (~~versteeken receipt~~). [Braffo] h

The ACANIST traders, who stay at CORMANTIJN, also miss the ordinary dues (ordinaris recht), as also the extraordinary presents that they were accustomed to receive on the arrival of new ships, and in particular, their Captain, who drew 12 engels monthly; still this is regarded as the least, among them, for when they have two separate Nations among them they ~~we~~ enjoy more profit in everything. Besides this, the present Factor of the English has this practice (dees maxime) - about which the Cormantyn traders stoutly complain every day that they are tied down (geknevelt) by him, that, in the selling of many parcels of his goods he does not follow us, which causes the ~~gve~~ most prejudice to the traders (en in veel partyen van verkoop syner goederen ons niet en volgt 'twelck de meeste preuditie van den Coopliden bijbrengt). I cannot understand that ~~that~~ he does his masters service thereby, especially if (~~ais~~) the Hon. Gentm supply the Coast well and suitably with goods; for by this means he drives the traders away, and diverts the gold.

The people of ANNEMABO would like to have a ship or a Lodge so as to benefit their place and the inhabitants get profit; which also would not cause any loss to the BRAFFO of FANTYN, since all goods which are sold there

would not cause the FANTYNS to suffer prejudice to their toll, as all ~~these~~ these purchasers are obliged to travel to ACANY by way of FANTYN.

August 24. In morning the deputies appeared again, about the proposal to have a ship, yacht, or a Lodge made, either at CORANTIJN or ANNEMABO. They were informed that I was not inclined to do this now, but must consider the matter till the arrival of the first new ship from home, and they must be content to wait patiently and submissively till then. Gave them 2 oz. in exchange for the present of 3 sheep, and they went away satisfied. ...

August 25. ... The yacht "Visser" returned from a voyage to the Benyn and the Bight (whither she left on 9th April) bringing 8,004 lb. tusks and 8 marks; 13½ eng. gold. This is a bad return cargo of tusks, but there is so much competition from foreign nations, and very little (~~by a niet veel t~~) can be got for the Company.

August 26. (Sunday) ...

August 27. In morning, at the opening of the gate came a cry (geroep) that the people of A(B)RAMBOU had made a raid (gevalen in) into GREAT COMANY last night, at the instigation (~~door instellingen~~) of the lately expelled King and some chiefs of A(B)RAMBOU. Many women & children killed. King TACY at first found himself deserted by the GREAT COMENDENAARS, and consequently had to retire with his people to one end of the place; but when day came, the COMENDENAARS came to his help and together attacked the ABRAMBOEYERS. Many were killed and others fled. ...

August 28. In morning the victory got by the King of GREAT COMANY was confirmed by the Blacks, & 150 ABRAMBOU heads had been obtained by him. The Caboceros of del Mina are going there to congratulate the said King. They therefore trouble me very much to send him a present from my hands of an anker of spirits to present to his visiting friends. This I refused, but will send by them a long asked for gold ring which will be as a token when they have anything to ask of or to do with me. This ring weighs 12 engels, and was sent to him with the said Caboceros. ...

August 29. - Shipped some iron on the yacht "Visser" for

the factory CABO CORS and Fort Nassau. - The Caboceros of del Myra, who left yesterday for GREAT COMANY, come back and report that the King was very pleased at my pleasure at the victory, and grateful for the gold ring, saying that this had already been promised for a long time; and now had need of something else to resist his enemy if he came back again, and therefore asked for 50 lb. Powder. And as we observe that the King is disposed to maintain good "correspondence" with us, which in many cases can be of use to the Company, we said we would supply him with 25 lb. The ABRAMBOWERS are well supplied with muskets (roers) and powder which they had obtained from the English both as present and on sale. The Caboseroe report further that while they were there, 25 ABRAMBOW heads had been brought in, which the peasants had cut off from the scattered people.

To-day also comes a rumour that the people of ABRAMBOW have declared war on FETUY and would visit them shortly. What will come of this, time will show. An ACANIST, recently come from ACANY, declares that there is no demand for goods in ACANY, and sufficient newly-bought goods still remain.

August 31. ... The monthly canoe from Axem arrives.

See that trade has been very quiet (~~as before~~) there; but the factor advises that if he were supplied with iron and arm rings, more gold would be received. Decided to send him as much as the canoe can carry. The receipts along the whole Coast amounted to Mk.186:5oz:2eng.

September 2. A strong rumour comes that the people of ABRAMBOW will come and fight those of FETUY. The Captain of the ACANISTS, being at FETUY, the King will not let him go before he has seen the end of the threats that these of ABRAMBOW are making; for this is to be remembered that the people of ABRAMBOW are always in fear of the ACANISTS, and those of FETUY of the ABRAMBOWERS.

September 3. This morning the King of FETUY sent a sheep as present, but would not accept it, as the King asks to have some powder to defend himself against the ABRAMBOWERS, his threatening enemies. The deputies informed me that the ACANISTS who are at FETUY had sent posts to the ABRAMBOWERS and had them told that if they did any injury to FETUY, they would bring it about (~~to wear breeches~~) that they shall afterwards set the whole of ACANY down upon them. ...

September 5. Sent some lime juice (limoensap) to the ship "St Pieter".

September 8. ~~The English sent to the King of GREAT COMPANY~~ ~~to thank for the 25 lb. powder sent him, but as this could serve little to keep his enemies in check, he respectfully requested another 25 lb., which I decided upon for the Company's service and in addition, at the messengers request, presented them with lead to cast into bullets. It is not pleasing to us that the English Chiefs (Opperhoofden), or their sailors, sell so much powder and muskets (roers) to the Blacks, as we hear daily.~~ - The King of GREAT COMPANY sent some messengers to thank for the 25 lb. powder sent him, but as this could serve little to keep his enemies in check, he respectfully requested another 25 lb., which I decided upon for the Company's service and in addition, at the messengers request, presented them with lead to cast into bullets. It is not pleasing to us that the English Chiefs (Opperhoofden), or their sailors, sell so much powder and muskets (roers) to the Blacks, as we hear daily.

September 9. (Sunday). ...

September 10. - Loaded the ship "St Pieter" with provisions for the Island St Thomé.- The ACANISTS of CORMANTIJN sent an express to ask me again that we would give them this pleasure, to have a ship or yacht to lie before ANNEMABO to trade; with promises to favour us before the English in the spending of their gold; to which, had them given in reply that if they seriously had in mind any favour (benefit) to my Hon. Masters, I pointed out that they should come and "sit" here this week, otherwise I could not have much faith in it. The one sent out on behalf of the aforesaid ACANISTS makes known to us that the English have little iron; therefore (I) placed the same from 2½ Eng. to 3 Eng. He tells us further that the ship "Golden Star" would have set sail already if they could have got their gold on board which has been delayed through the heavy seas.

September 12. ... All the ACANISTS here appear in the Castle and ask that iron may remain at 2½ engels; which have refused them. Meanwhile, enquiring what ~~dat manquaert~~ that so little gold comes down daily. They all declare that all the last current goods brought out by the ship "St Pieter", bought by them, are still mostly lying in ACANY, without finding any demand by the Blacks who would buy them. They can give little reason for this and differ in opinion. Sent the large canoe to Mouré so that his received gold shall be brought up by Hozenhouck.

September 13. ... - Yacht "Reaal" sent to Chama with lime, to repair the Lodge there. ....

was the reason

September 15. ... Appeared here from FETUY the Black named JAN CLAESZ, being one of the principal gold bringers, who declared that the King of FETUY greatly feared that the people of ABRAHEMBOU would come and fight them, as a "groot meester" from there, being the brother of the driven away wife of the King of FETUY had made a demand upon the said King, because of this, of 300 great Bendas, or 84 marks, 3 oz. gold, with which to appease the insults which the King has done to this "groot Maester" by driving away his sister. The FETUERS will not give so large a sum. What will follow on this, time will show. (Note. 1. Mark is 8 oz; i.e. 84 Marks are 672 oz. 1 Benda is 2 oz; i.e. 672 oz. are 336 Bendas; i.e. 84 Marks are 336 Bendas.)

September 16. The ship "Regenbooch" of Middelburg arrived; 12 iron, 6 brass guns; 32 eaters; having sailed from Tresif (Reciff ?) on 10 August, with instructions, after calling at St Thomé to load sugar, then to return to Brazil; but had been obliged to come here through contrary winds and currents. ...

September 22. Ship "St Pieter" sailed for home, first to St Thomé with ... 560 Marks gold, 18,004 lb. elephants tuaks, and 31½ hogsheads lime juice; 5 soldiers and one wife. ... I have to-day ordered some natives to bring in corn to feed the slaves which will be bought at Arder. "Regenbooch" to Chama for water & wood.

September 23. (Sunday).

September 25. -Could not send the large canoe with merchandise to CABO CORSO and Mouré, because of bad weather. - ... At 6.30 received a letter (dd. 24th) from Gerridt van Tets, factor at the small fort Chama, as follows: ... - That in afternoon arrived here to me, on one Johannes Metkalf, who said he was lying at TACRARIE with two English ships to see if they could get water and firewood there; but observing that he could be better accommodated here at Chama than there, he therefore asked me whether their ships might come here for their wants. I told him that I had no orders to consent to that, but that I would inform YH. of his request and await YH's orders. - Metkalf also offers to trade his goods to YH so that he can then go to the Bight for slaves. - ... On receipt of this letter, called a meeting of the Councillors present here, who decided that Metkalf should not be allowed by van Tets to have water or firewood, and if he wished to sell his goods, to appear here, with his ships.

The large canoe departs at midday for C&BO CORS & MOURE.  
...

September 27. In morning at daybreak see the ship mentioned yesterday anchored before COMANY. ... About 9.30 we get sight of a rowing chaloup coming down from windward, which arrives at 11 o'clock with the person Johannes Metkalf "Engels Serguyn Mietteman", whom I received in "na sij waardig waren" and asked for what reason purpose they appeared here and in whose name they came. Metkalf "doet een remonstratie op" some questions put to him, principally how it comes that he did not remain in the service of the Company which he served for so long. Declares he requested this many times but no place had been granted him, and therefore he has sought his fortune with the English to sail out with this ship named "Maria Bona (?)", 130 tons, he says; 20 iron guns and 43 eaters, in capacity as second in command under Captain named Joris Ritserson(?), besides the yacht on which was the captain's brother, ... which sailed out of the Downs in May and reached the Island Bona Vista in 12 days, where took in salt (20 tons). He offered to sell his goods, value f.28,949, which showed complete ignorance of goods especially the beads, which decided to do.- Metkalf asked for employment as he complained of his treatment by the English. This refused because of the protests the English would make. ... (Further as to the trade of the English at Cormantijn).

September 28. ... The King of FETUY sent some messengers to desire us to honour his feast approaching festival, which begins on 2nd October. Give him thanks & accept his present of a sheep and a pot wine, & present him with 2 oz. in merchandise, as my predecessors have done formerly. Equipage Master went out before the closing of the gate in order to proceed to Chama at night, to supervise repairs to the Fort.

September 29. ... The English ship & yacht still anchored before COMANY. The Caboceros come up, and spent 2-3 hours with them in settling questions which have arisen between the Blacks amongst themselves. ... The ship "Eendracht" from the Zeeland Chamber arrived; 66 eaters, including 8 soldiers and 10 sailors to stay here; sailed 26 July, having a cargo for this Coast & St Thomé. ... On reading the letter brought, found the Hon.Gentn. had allowed me f.300 p.m. with half share in all the lime juice

- September 30. -The English ship and yacht dropped down from COMANY to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the roads of del Myna. -
- October 3. -Purchased goods from the English ship to the amount of Mk.27:3:1.
- October 5. The Captain of the ACCANISTS, who has stayed for a long time at FETTU to help in the pacification that these of ABRAHEMBOUW should not make war on FETU, reports to us, besides JAN HENNEQUA, for certain, that nothing but bad news comes from ACANY, that the Districts to which they sell their goods are strongly at war against the parties lying further inland - (~~dat de lant seahpen schappen daer sij hun goet can vercoepen tegen de verdere in't lant leggende partyen dapper in oorlog tegen de andere sijn~~) - and through this, there is no demand for goods. We <sup>can</sup> observe that the ACANISTS besides us are naturally distressed about this state of affairs; and with a dejected mind say it is to be feared that in the next six months there is little chance of any gold of importance coming down. In short, the Company is assailed, to the suffering of damage, in many quarters (~~soelen~~), both with the sober state of the GOLD COAST, and the windward and leeward places, namely the Quaqua Coast and the Bight are so closely navigated by the English slavers that there is little left for us to get. At 2 o'clock comes a sail in sight setting course along the shore. In evening at 6.30 it ~~came~~ <sup>was</sup> reached athwart the Castle. Flew an English flag aft, and fired 3 shots to which we replied. See that the Fiscal is doing his best, the sea being rough, to go on board with the Government boat.
- October 6. -Fiscal Caerlof reports that the ship is a cargo ship for the English Company, the factor on it being Fransisco Skerles, laden with a Coast cargo, which vexes us as the English had little with them for the injury of the Company. And through this "intervalle" we are obliged to place the goods with us for underselling. It appears that the Company is in many ways being assailed to its damage, and the parties get more courage in the hopes of gain; but we now have reasonable stuff with <sup>which</sup> to oppose the parties, and to prevent them making any profit, the more so because there is little gold among the Blacks (through arisen war). - Summoned the Council & resolution, as entry thereof, has been made.

October 7. -Unloading the "Eendracht".-

October 8. A trusty Black comes from CORMANTIJN; says that yesterday he was on board the newly arrived English ship and understood from the Factor Francisco Charles that he had a good assortment in everything; the ship "Golden Star", skipper Mr Huwet, had departed on 29th ulto; and the slave trader and his yacht on the 7th inst. To-day fixed a definite Price List (markt brief). Hogenhouck to Mouré.

October 11. Those interested in the detained goods (seized on th "Eendracht") came together and very respectfully begged for the restitútion of the same, declaring that there was nothing among them that "op bodemery is genomen". They further said that the Hon Gentlemen, at the time that they engaged them, said in words, "Men! you must remember that Guinea is a fat water (veet vaer-water) and therefore you must not stand to win large monthly pay". It is wretched to see how miserable the fellows stand and look when I tell them I have contrary orders from the Hon Gentlemen. In short, it is to be hoped that shortly there will not be one <sup>Guineese</sup> smuggler to be found in Guinea.

October 12. Meeting of Council - at which the <sup>Information</sup> "Eisch" of the fiscal was heard, and the goods seized on the "Eendracht" declared confiscated; 1/3 for Company, 1/3 for Fiscal, and 1/3 profit for the poor; being mostly beads, sheets, "past" (?), knives &c.

October 13. ... Received letter from Mr Hogenhouck that the ACANISTS there (Mouré) were unwilling to trade unless he Hogenhouck assured them that they had not been given by me to sell orders had not been given by me to sell them at higher price than at de Myna; and if such was the case they would hold up their gold.

October 22. ... In the night the Black, Pieter Dircxse, will go to CORMANTIJN on my behalf in order that we may know for certain how the party is selling his goods. This was done by me as a test whether another Black residing at CORMANTIJN, and on whose advices we I much rely, always tells the truth.

October 23. This morning an English chaloup came to anchor near the roads, laden with merchandise to carry to the factory at TACCORARY. ...

October 24. ... About 10 o'clock see two sails, and sent the factor Jan van Sweede by canoe thither, to discover on whose behalf they were. At 3 o'clock Van Sweede returns and reports one small ship to be of 80-90 tons, 14 guns, 40 eaters, flying a French flag; the captain born at Dieppe; Commission from the Crown of France. ...

October 26. ... The Black, Pieter Dirricxs, who left on the 22nd inst. for CORMANTIJN to learn of the state of the English, returned. The report agrees generally with that of a Cormantijner whom we usually employ, stating that little gold is received by them. The principal ACANISTS let me know that they will come & pay me a visit next week, and have something that it is necessary to speak about. ~~They desire to see the factor & to be accompanied by him to the coast.~~

[Dutch] October 27. ... Advice from CRAA, through the Fiscal informs us that the people of SMALL & GREAT CRAA, 9,000 men in number, have marched out together to make war on the people of LATABE, which place is situate about 6 miles below CRAA, and came in collision with each other (~~can malcander geracket~~) on the 22nd instant, and was very severe in the manner of the Blacks. The result was that LATABEE was defeated and about 1,000 heads brought in. There was much rejoicing there daily about this. The Fiscal is of opinion from statements (inductie) of the Blacks, that it will be very favourable for the trade. We shall see what the effect will be. ...

October 29. -The CRAA canoe departed.-

October 31. ... In afternoon, the factors Coeymans & Looten depart to CORMANTIJN, on the long existing invitation of the English, and further to see what they can bring about for the advantage of the Company. The Coast cargo of the "Eendracht" completely unloaded.

November 2. The Axem canoe arrived with monthly sales which are sober, in order to maintain (~~op te houden~~) so many men. Another large canoe also appears from the same place, with which comes down the daughter of the former Governor of the Portuguese named Emanuel COUREA. This woman is named Hellena COUREA, (&) and had been married to the (a?) Portuguese who, when Axem was annexed (~~geincorporeert~~) departed from there, but his wife, being a mulatto woman he left remaining there. ...



In afternoon at 3 o'clock appear before me, accompanied by the Mynse Caboceros, 10 Camase (Chama) Blacks who complain of their treatment by the factor, van Tets, there; by demanding more fish toll than was right, and moreover, yesterday, firing on the village with ball from the large cannon; which far exceeds my orders in this time. The complainants request that I will summon him in person, to which I resolve; and as he has no Assistant, I have sent the Equippage Master thither, who will leave to-night in order to take charge of the Fort until van Tets returns, whom I have summoned by letter. ... At dusk 2 decapitated heads were brought in, with which the Blacks made great triumph; but I told them to remove them immediately from the village, which was done.

November 6. In the afternoon, in my presence, the marriage was concluded of Jan Geelendonck, Malatto, sub-factor, taking charge of the factory CABO CORS. This Jan Geelendonck has sprung from a certain Portuguese captain whose ship was captured by a Company ship in the year 1623 or 1624, and his mother, a slave woman, produced this Malatto, who has got so far by good conduct, "en beseten bestaen te vryen(?)" (to marry?) the daughter of one Emmanuel Correa, who had formerly been Governor at Axem. "~~Bes is weduw of geen weduw~~" *She is a widow captured* named HELLENA COUREA, whose husband, when the Fort Axem was annexed (geincorporeert) by the Hon<sup>or</sup> Mr Ruychaver, departed to Portugal, and left this Hellena sitting with a child procreated by her. About which matter I have communicated with the Consoler of the Sick who is here, whether one might justly and without objection allow the marriage; both of whom declared "yes", about which I allowed this the more frankly.

November 7. At 3 o'clock (am) there arose cries and lamentations at the place where an ACANIST named APEFA lives. At the opening of the gate therefore sent my servant thither to learn the cause of it; who reports that news has come that a certain Mynaer had been killed in the battle and many Chiefs (grote) of FETU as well as some ACANISTS. A certain JAN HENNEQUA - who brings down much gold and is next in the FETU Kingdom to be King, except that there still remains a brother of the King. He has lost 23 slaves and was in great danger himself of losing his life. His brother JAN CLAES'S wife was so terrified that she fled to CABO CORSO with HENNEQUA. Out of this work a great war may be expected to arise, as the King's eldest son and so many principal men have been decapitated. In short, the devil will again "~~partij speelen~~." The factors, Coeymans & *wants to play a part again*

Looten returned from CORMANTIJN. Report they were very friendly treated by the English but could get no opportunity (credyt) to see their merchandise, but are well assured they sell their goods as well as us; but find their "tin werk" much lighter and finer (fynder) than the Company's, which "het ons seer doet stutten". They had got a large "partij" from the Benyn, consequently sell their large 4 "bants" at 3 engels the piece, in which we ought to follow him. They intend to send a yacht to the Benyn within 5-6 days. "Hope met Compe niet langer gewacht sal were(?)" . The factor of Cama appears towards evening, & thereupon the Caboceros. ... The aforesaid van Tets brings a new canoe with him, for which have paid 13 engels.

November 8. Inquire into the complaints of the Chamas against the factor, who denied the charges and said the trouble was caused by his refusal to allow 2 houses to be erected too near the Fort. After much talk on either side, each punished separately, and laws made according to which each will have to regulate himself. The Chamas were told that the houses were not to be built. The Chamas greatly complain that they receive so little from us although the Chama river is so serviceable to the Company for getting wood and water which they often have need of (~~dikwijls van doen hebben~~). Presented them with 1 oz. 8 engels. in merchandise and so they took their leave, well contented. Understand that the terror is so great among the FETUS that nearly all the people have fled from that place. If the King TACY had followed up his victory he could have annexed (~~reinoopnemen~~) this whole kingdom. JAN HENNEQUA was at CABO CORS with the senior wife of the King of FETU; therefore sent a large canoe thither to fetch <sup>as a favour</sup> them from een droes een keers op te steeken, as the Company is much concerned with (~~gebezorgd aan~~) HENNEQUA. - Van Tets returns to Chama.

November 9. Equipage Master returns from Chama. We are assured that the King of GREAT COMAMY is stoutly requested by his community to go to FETU to annex (~~incorporeren~~) this kingdom; but that the King has refused this, and told his people that he now has honours enough (~~een genoeg~~) and did not wish seek to incense Almighty God.

November 10. In morning early the large canoe returns from CABO CORS. The Blacks report that HENNEQUA had gone to FETU, and that the King's wife had me heartily thanked for the courtesy shown in sending a canoe for her. She now hoped to get an opportunity (~~ruimte~~) to get to FETU, & she dare not come up for fear her husband might take it amiss. It appears that this woman has some of the King's

treasure with her to take care of (~~her~~). - In afternoon yacht "Reaal" sails to Ardra and the Benyn. - ...

November 11. (Sunday). Nothing particular happened except only that a servant of the King of FETU told me that since the battle lost by them, the King has never slept in his house but always under the sky, & has taken upon himself (~~big self opinion~~) not to do so before he shall have got revenge on King TACY. Meanwhile we are sitting here without receiving any gold.

November 12. ... Received a letter from the English at CORMANTIJN, requesting two cans small beer, for the factor Francisco Charles is sick; which sent him. To-day we have been obliged to take up the planks of the dining hall (~~ceiling~~) ceiling, and renew them.

November 13. In morning, with the opening of the gate, came an express from the King at FETU to tell me that the people of ABRAMBOE, on the 16th, will come and make war on them, and the King intends manfully to resist them, but that he was lacking powder and lead, and therefore asked that I would give him some. The powder I have refused considering the scarcity we are in; but have sent him 25 lb. lead, which is of no use to us, to cast into bullets. The English are acting very improperly in daily selling so many muskets and powder to the Blacks.

One of the principal Blacks of Mouré appears in the name of the King of SABOUW and respectfully requests that the 3 gun carriages (~~"vampers" - vide van Lennep's "Zoemans-Weerdeboek"~~) for the small guns standing at SABOU, may be renewed, as the people of FANTYN are daily threatening to drive him out of his "nest"; and although we are soberly provided with carpenters, we have given orders for this to be taken in hand at once, as the King is of very great importance to the Company.

A Black from CORMANTIJN comes secretly to tell us that the English intend to send their ship to trade before CABO CORS, but that the ACANISTS there had strongly dissuaded and frightened them against it, that if he takes this in hand, many ACANISTS of CORMANTIJN will settle at CABO CORSO, and that this has been taken into consideration by the English.

\* [We have an "opynij" the ACANISTS at CORMANTIJN afteraden the English to send geen ship to CABO CORSO, hun soecken in de navolgende manier te abuseeren; for] they fear this ship will get trade there and sell its goods, which would have the result that, if no English ship appears there shortly, they would sit at CORMANTIJN for a long time without merchandise. [Schiedam]

\* [We believe the Acanists at Cormantijn are trying to dissuade the English from sending a ship to Cabo Corso because]

In afternoon comes an ACANIST, on behalf of all the ACANISTS who are at FETU, and requests that I would have Captain QUAU and other ACANISTS called here by express, as the people of ABRAMBOU, as stated above, intend to come & attack (~~bespringen~~) FETU on the 16th instant. It appears that the ACANISTS dare not depart out of respect for the King (ten respecte van), and on such grounds, that I had had them summoned, to be excused with the King. This request deserves careful consideration in the interests of the Company, in so far that if we let the Captain QUAU and the other ACANISTS come here, it is not to be doubted that the ABRAMBOERS will shortly come to FETU; therefore thought it better to let the ACANISTS remain there until we see how the matter turns out; for the people of ABRAHEMBOU, being ACCANIST subjects, must contribute a good sum annually to them; and if the ACANISTS remain at FETU they will do the King of FETU a great service, and the ABRAMBOERS will not ~~make~~ attempt. This I have put before the messenger, to say to the ACANISTS; and so he at once departed. Meanwhile, we sit here at d' Myna without receiving gold.

November 14. This morning the King of FETU had me thanked, being surprised that I had sent to him that I regretted the mishap (~~ongeval~~) that had befallen him; & respectfully prayed, as it was now time to encourage his soldiers to the preservation of both themselves (~~with cells~~) and of trade, that an anker of liquor might be sent him, & also some powder, as he had lost much in the last battle. - Decided to send him an anker liquor and powder. - It appeared from the statement of his servant that he was glad that I, as well as he, had resolved that it were best that the ACANISTS remain there till it had been seen how the people of ABRAHEMBOU will behave (~~dragen~~).

November 15. In morning comes good news from FETU that means were being sought for conciliation with the ABRAHEMBOUERS, as some deputies on behalf of FETU had been sent to ABRAHEMBOU. God Almighty grant that it may result for the best for the Company.

November 16. In morning received a letter from Fiscal CAERLOF (at CRAA). He reports that the frigate "Eendracht" had arrived there on 6th instant; but he, being then at GREAT CRAA, had returned from the Kingdom of OQUY, which lies 3 or 4 miles north of GREAT ACCARA; is bounded on the West by the FANTYN District; and, running further to the East of ACRA, as far as AQUIMENA & "besluyt" LATEBE, which this King of OQUY claims to be his; and extends Northwards up to the District ACANY; and

[includes]

*Handwritten notes:*  
 1646 - 1647  
 1648 - 1649  
 1650 - 1651

[although this Oquy King has received - some gold from the Craas in order that they, the Latebes might freely [pass to?] the Craas without his opposition ... the Fisical observes that there is no great love between the Oquys & Acraas [Craas], because some years ago the Craas had killed this King's father, yet efforts had been made to get them to live together in peace, & he [Fisical] had completely effected it by making presents for the purpose; And as the people of Oquy have promised to open the Aquimina & Accanist paths, it is hoped that there will be a good trade to Craa ]

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November 17. An express arrived from FETU on behalf of the ACCANISTS who are at FETU, reporting that there is some gold among them that they would like to spend, and they are assured that some parties of bandits (strijckroovers), on behalf of the COMANISEN King, were to be seen on the paths between here and FETU in order to rob the ACCANISTS, especially as regards Captain QUAEU and HENNEQUA, and to kill their people, and they are therefore afraid to leave FETU, and about this they asked me & in a friendly way to send someone to GREAT COMANIST that the King should call in these men.

I was very much inclined to do this, in order to further trade, and at once sent thither one of the principal Caboceros, with a dexterous slave, in my name, for the aforesaid purpose, and to say to the King that if he will not do this for my sake he will lose my favour which has always been shown him. But this cannot be done without a dash (dasje) of one ounce gold in goods. Also let him know that it would be highly pleasing to me if he would make peace with the FETUS

November 18. (Sunday). With the opening of the gate appears the Consoler of the Sick from Mouré, bringing a letter from Joris Hoozenhouck; advises that a surgeon (Curugyn) who is stationed at Fort Nassau [Zickenhouck]

[Laf] of wel this OQUYSEN King has received any gold from the CRASE ten eynde sy de LÄTTERBESE vrij sonder syn teegenstant door de CRASE mochten gemats(?) werden, which, as stated before, has been done, as (zoo) the Fiscal observed there was no great love between the OQUYSE and ACRAERS; because some years ago the CRASE had killed this King's father; nevertheless, diligence was being employed to get them to live together in complete peace, which, the Fiscal writes, he has brought about in every respect and made some presents to that end, and, as the people of OQUY have promised that they will open the AQUIMINASE and ACCANISTE paths, with the hope that it will make a good trade to CRAA. ] ... .. The Fiscal had followed the "Eendracht" by canoe to the place where it will fetch shells for the burning of lime, lying 5-6 miles [Dutch] by sea below ACCRAA, but on coming there found that the slaves had not brought more than 10 to 12 boats (full) to the beach; but meantime gives hope that will get the frigate nearly full. But it appeared to him that, besides the presents already given to the Chiefs (overheede) there, they would now let ~~he~~ allow no shells on board before still 3.p. lywaet were promised them; so we often have to complain about this deceitful nation.  
... ..

November 17. An express arrived from FETU on behalf of the ACANISTS who are at FETU, reporting that there is some gold among them that they would like to spend, and they are assured that some parties of bandits (strijckroovers), on behalf of the COMANISEN King, <sup>which King</sup> ~~are~~ to be seen on the paths between here and FETU in order to rob the ACCANISTS, especially as regards Captain QUAEU and HENNEQUA, and to kill their people, and they are therefore afraid to leave FETU; and about this they asked me ~~if~~ in a friendly way to send someone to GREAT COMPANY that the King should call in ~~these~~ men.

I was very much inclined to do this, in order to further trade, and at once sent thither one of the principal Caboceros, with a dexterous slave, in my name, for the aforesaid purpose, and to say to the King that if he will not do this for my sake he will lose my favour which has always been shown him. But this cannot be done without a dash (dasje) of one ounce gold in goods. Also let him know that it would be highly pleasing to me if he would make peace with the FETUS

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had been at CORMANTIJN for 4-5 days on a visit to the English Chief Factor, named Francisco Schaerles (Charles?) who had come here by the last ship, having the chief command, had died painfully on the 15th instant, about which there was great mourning amongst them. To-day marries (trout) Jan Geelendonek mulatto with Helena Corea, mulatto woman, daughter of the former Governor at Axem, Emmanuel CORREA. In afternoon the Mynse Caboceros and the slave returned from GREAT COMANY, stating that the King sent me his greetings and hearty thanks for the present sent, and that he will comply with my request; further saying that he is a lover of trade and is not disposed to close the paths to it but, where it can and may help, to open them. But he is extremely offended with ~~eh~~ the ACCANISTS, to whom he has never done any wrong, and why, therefore did some of them, a short time ago, unite with the King of FETU to thrust him out of his kingdom, as they knew well that the King of FETU came to fight him unjustly.

November 19. In morning, comes news from FETU that the peace with the people of ABRAHEMBOU will not take place (~~vallen~~), and they will shortly visit the FETUS with arms, and about this have let the ACCANISTS, who are at FETU, know that they should proceed with all their goods to the beach or to Myna. There also came hither many ACANIST goods to-day.

The people of ACCANY have sent a message to the ABRAHEMBOUWERS, who pay an annual contribution to the ACANISTS, that if they attack FETU with arms, they will "daarentegen op't roekje (rockje?) wille coomen". The ABRAHEMBOUWERS have replied that they will nevertheless carry out their intentions against the FETUS and then await the ACANISTS. In short, it is a fierce war; how it will end, time will show. At dusk many FETU women arrived here, each bringing her baggage with her, making out nothing ~~more~~ else than that the people of ABRAHEMBOU will attack FETU before long.

November 20. This morning held a meeting with the Caboceros, and various disputes among the Mynse settled. It appears that an armistice is again being concerted between the ABRAHEMBOUWERS and the people of FETU. - A sail sighted off Comany. Sent canoe thither at night.-

November 21. Canoe returns reporting the ship is an English slaver. At midday when the ship dropped down, sent whiteman in canoe, who returning reported it was an English ship named "Lieve Vrouw" from London; skipper John Lad, for CORMANTIJN with a Coast cargo of £10,000 of lywaet, serges and knives; offering to sell them to me; which in these times is certainly not advisable.

[Searle?]

[come during upon them?]

November 22. -Nothing particular happened.- Greatly long for the peace between ABRAHEMBOUW & FETU.

November 23. This morning sent 3 new gun carriages and 3 P. Serge to Mouré. The gun carriages for the King of ZABOUW.

November 24. ... .. The canoe sent to Mouré yesterday, returned with letter from Hoogenhoeck that since the arrival of the last Englishman, lying anchored at CORMANTION, he had received no gold.

(Sunday)

November 25. [ ... / In afternoon we see a sail coming up from leeward, which anchors at 4.30 before CABO CORS. ~~Cannot see otherwise than that it is the ship with which Francisco has come as Factor, or, as they call themselves, General.~~ This anchoring before CABO CORS of the parties (partyen) will apparently result (sitvallen) in nothing else than to carry on trade there. Therefore found good to send Chief Factor Isaac Coeymans likewise (t gelyuk) tomorrow to FETU.

November 26. In morning had the gate opened at 3.30, and sent Chief Factor Coeymans, assisted by one of the principal Caboceros of del Myna, named Juan HENRYCO, to FETU with written instructions of 12 Articles to put before both the King of FETU and the ACANISTS, with verbal orders to return op dato, unless they understood there that some deputies from the English will appear there; and so look forward (uitsien) with desire to the report (relatie). In afternoon, Coeymans writes that he has put before the King the 1st and 2nd Articles, whereupon the King declared that he did not know that the ship lay anchored about CABO CORSO, and he had therefore at once sent an express thither to enquire into the matter; for which Coeymans will wait. Factor Hoogenhoeck writes that he has understood that this work, begun by the English, was undertaken at the instance of JÁN HENNEQUA and JAN CLÆSEN. Have therefore sent this letter to Coeymans to enquire strictly into the matter. The King asks in a friendly way that he may receive 2 or 3 small guns, to drive off his threatening enemies. This is indeed necessary, but I cannot help him on this occasion, through lack of them. The factor at CABO CORS advises that the English factor there was on shore, and "several de Caboceros wees groete". Our factor had summoned the ACANISTS there and the Caboceros, in order to put my orders before them, but they would not come into the Lodge.

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November 27. In morning received a letter from the CABO CORSO Factor, Jan GEELENDONCK, reporting that when the English Factor had gone on board, the ACANISTS and the Caboceros came into the Lodge to hear my orders and wishes; saying it was indeed true that they stand under the FETU King, with whom I am in alliance; but that they are seeking to champion (voorstaan) their own place, "en hun professie als wij haar best doen"; saying that they were no slaves of mine. The ACANISTS likewise replied that they would buy goods where it pleased them, "en indien van mij geen wette wilde gesteld weese"; but if we had held such a market here [hoedanige mert: meaning perhaps, had sold at the same prices] as at del myna and Mouré, that they would not have fetched in ~~the~~ ~~English~~ the English; but if we intended to do so, they would let us and the English each receive the half of their gold. To this the Factor said that we did not desire this, and ~~(ten aancien)~~ we would not allow them to buy any goods with ~~the~~ the English in order to land them at CABO CORSO, since the King had ceded ~~(aangepaen)~~ that port to us ~~[note: there is no record of any formal agreement of cession anywhere to be found]~~, "dienvolgende hun voor schade wel hadde te wachten". The factor Coeymans returns from FETU with a ~~delegat~~ deputy on behalf of the King, in order, with the soldiers and slaves whom I intend to send to CABO CORSO tomorrow, to prevent the ~~party~~ party enjoying any trade, "twelck die King promises soo die van CABO CORSO, als ACCANISTS die daar wille nestelen, interdictie te doen, haarselve buiten schade te houden". The call, both of the King as of his brother, as also the ACCANISTS is nothing else than "what will you give us?" The English factor will appear before the King on the 29th with request to establish a Lodge at CABO CORSO, and lets it ~~so~~ ~~known~~ ~~him~~ that he will be willing to present to the King, at first, one "pont" gold; to which Black Jan (Swaerte Jan) eagerly ~~(begeert)~~ listens, "en hebbe geen merking op de na Somert. \* [ "Wij en connen dit werk, sonder posta(?) te lyde, niet derbij gaan en patienteeren, soo't de Comp. een pont gout kont te kosten; want aan dees laten wij ons ten reysgaert van de Comp. veel aengelegen; en is dienstig nu dese met de Conyck te gaen, mits goede opmerking te neemen de "King" ons niet en bedriecht". ] Coeymans makes further ~~report~~ written report, and already have presented them with  $\frac{1}{2}$  anker Krau(?) and  $\frac{1}{2}$  anker ~~S~~ y wyn, amounting to 14 oz.

\* [We cannot ~~allow~~ ~~the~~ ~~particulars~~ patiently allow this business to proceed when if it costs the Co a pound of gold, for the Co is much concerned with it, as it is useful to most to go to work along with the King, provided we take good care that the King does not deceive us]

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November 28. In morning sent a sergeant and 7 soldiers to CABO CORS; tomorrow, 8 slaves will follow. The Chief Factor, Joris Hoogenhoeck, reports that he has summoned the principal ACCANISTS and Caboceros to Fort Nassau, in accordance with my order, and put everything before them, that they shall be faithful to the definite ~~(assesses)~~ Agreement made with them in December 1645, at the time Mr Ruychaver departed; to which they firstly replied, what had I now promised to give them. The Factor represented to them that I had at that time made suitable presents to them, and they should further observe what they had daily received; and to consider well that in this time one ought not to give presents a second time, or to demand them. Nevertheless, before they would make any promises not to go on board, he had to present them with 3 oz.4 engsls.

November 29. In morning understood that the English were awaiting a "groot meester" from FETU at CABO CORSO, in order to travel with him to the King. Therefore resolved to go there in person to prevent it. Left this afternoon, with 8 slaves all armed, Arrived in evening at 6.30. Understood from sub-factor Jan Geelendonck that he had not yet seen any goods come from the English ship, except 4 cloths (deekens) received by the ACANISTS in payment of 2 sheep they had presented. A slave who had run away a long time ago was reported to me to be in the village JAMBY.

[Cabo Corso]

November 30. In morning sent two slaves to the village JAMBY for the runaway slave, who was brought to me. Pay the usual due ~~(recht)~~ to the "huisvesters", consisting in 8 engsls. I had all the ACANISTS and Caboceros summoned ~~te~~ into the Lodge. They gave answer that if I had anything to say to them, that they were all sitting in the market ~~(markt)~~ and I must come there. It was reported that they were afraid of being detained. Therefore had them answered that I would let them freely return again; and if they would not all come, they should depute some, so as to make known to them the ~~cause~~ cause of my coming here. They let me know a second time that they had nothing to do with me and they were under the King of FETU, and that they were not of a mind to sell bread to my soldiers or to let them fetch water. I sent my servant there once again and had them told that if they did not appear they must consider well what they were doing; that I would not tolerate it from them and would seek my revenge against them; that they might well protect ~~(n)~~ their women and children as a ship was daily expected from CRAA which would indeed make them come to me.

They replied that I might do my best. I at once let the slaves go for water, but they were not molested. It appears that they are somewhat apprehensive for themselves.

From Axem come the monthly sales, with further report that the fishermen of the lowest village are refusing to pay the proper toll of fish. In short, Axem and CABO CORSO are gradually becoming deserving of punishment. I write a letter to Coeymans that he should at once send an express to the King of FETU, to request him to give orders; or that I should do it to his regret. The whole receipts for last month consist in Mk 182: oz 4: eng 1.

December 1. This morning about 9 'oclock appears a Black named Compaen, on behalf of the King of FETU, with orders to the Caboceros that they should appear in my Lodge to ~~listen~~ to hear my proposition. The King also had me very respectfully entreated that I would be pleased to take my departure from CABO CORS, and that everything would be arranged to my satisfaction, and not make room for the English, nor allow his subjects to go on board to buy goods. This pleased me well; but ~~the Clause~~ <sup>what</sup> he further had said to me, entirely not; since he said that I should send some one to him in order to anoint his hands (sijn handen te salve (zalven?)). I replied to the messenger that I by no means intended to do that, since, according to the Agreement made, I was not bound to, and first wished to see how he, the King, will carry out his promises; for if I heard that he was drawing any profit from the Englishman, he had to expect nothing from me but hostility, and in so far as everything was done according to my wishes I should not leave undone an honourable present for him, his brothers, and others. The messenger interceded very respectfully that I would take my departure because the CABO CORSERS, now and so long as I was not away from here, will not assist the King to resist the threatening enemies, the ABRHEMBOUERS. For the King had sent 56 Bendas gold to the ABRHEMBOUERS, to appease them, which they had had brought back, and say they are not satisfied with this small amount, but will come in arms against him on the 3rd instant. I have taken this friendly request into consideration and decided to depart to-day: but first to have a talk with the Caboceros and the ACANISTS who are here. I therefore sent the aforementioned Compaen, and at once two Caboceros and principal ACANISTS appeared, whom I asked why such stoutness had been committed towards me yesterday, and now not all of them appeared. They declared they were afraid as they had understood that I had come here and had had irons brought, with which to confine them.

I put before them for what purpose I had come here, with

a warning that they should not break the Agreement (~~Contract~~) which we had made with the FETU King, and should not permit any foreign nation to establish a Lodge here, nor give any canoes to the ACCANISTS to buy any merchandise at the Englishman lying here "etc".

\*To this the Caboceros replied that they knew well that they were under the King of FETU; but that they were bound to benefit (beneficieeren) their place, as we, on the other hand were are seeking to oppress it and to drive away the the ACCANISTS, seeing that the goods here always stood at such a high price market price (~~price~~); but if we gave the goods like as at de Myna or Mouré, they would not think of any other nation, and many ACCANISTS would undoubtedly settle here; and their place might again become flourishing as in former years when CABO CORSSO was held to be the best trading place on the Coast. Note. This is quite true. P. de Marees, who sailed the Gold Coast in 1601, in his "Beschryvinghe" describes CABO CORSSO as "a good trading place and the finest market of all the other towns"; and therefore giving an illustration of the market, (column 30b). Vide also columns 41a & 41b.; all at pp.62,84,85, in the Linschoten edition, edited by S.P.L'Honoré Naber; they persisting that one had wronged them in this. I replied that they must now do the will of the FETU King, and we, what our Honourable Masters ordered us; very strongly urging them not to undertake anything to the prejudice of the Company; or that I shall ruin their place and keep a yacht continuously lying before the port to prevent them fishing; which appeared to cause them great alarm, and they requested that they might report this to all the other Caboceros and then come again. Presented them with a piece Lywaet and  $\frac{1}{2}$  anker liquor, which they dared not accept until they had spoken with their brothers.

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The aforesaid Caboceros returned shortly and relate their experiences; that they had nothing bad against me in their minds, and were waiting for the orders of the FETU King; that they would for the present accept the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anker ["'geen in geen consequent mach retrok werde"] but that they dared not accept the piece of lywaet before they had received the orders of their King. With that we separated in a friendly manner. I gave instructions to Jan Geelendonck how he had to act, left two soldiers for his assistance, and departed at 2'oclock and came to del Myna in evening.

[which was of no consequence]

December 2. (Sunday). The CRAA monthly canoe came with "extract" of the sales consisting in Mk 99: oz 4: eng 12. The Fiscal trusts that the "Eendracht" will come up full of shells at the appointed time.



advisable at once to travel to CORMANTIJN to speak with the Captain, and will proceed to the purchase at 38 guildens the piece, at the utmost. Had the canoe got ready and sailed with it in order to make enquiry at CABO CORS about what had been stated about the 20 p. serge. Arrived at 2 'oclock where the English Factor, Mr Leveson and skipper; nevertheless at once had searched through all warehouses, chests, and cases, but found nothing. The Mulatto stood very astonished. Told him what I had been informed. Declared with high oaths that he knew nothing about it and was not guilty; and if I afterwards came to know of it, to punish him in the most rigorously. I did not let myself be satisfied with this, but took both slaves, who belong to this Lodge, with me, and when I came to Mouré in evening, had them put in close confinement.

While I was at CABO CORS I got into conversation with Mr Laeveson about his intentions. He declared he had been shamefully deceived by the Blacks, and many times had been begged that if he would come up with the ship, there was no doubt that he would procure much gold. I said that I had greatly contributed to that, and was sufficiently assured that he would not obtain either the making of the gold Lodge or the receipt of gold. He asked in what respect ~~ten was regard~~. I replied that I'den King of FETU sulcken Vram (??) op syn neus wist te setten; that he has not the courage to take such in hand. He gave me a friendly invitation to come and visit him on board when I returned, and we parted. ....

Handwritten note: *Handwritten note: 29*

December 5. At 4 'oclock am, Coeymans departed to CORMANTIJN in order to visit the Fort and to return shortly. All the ACANISTS here, and the Caboceros came to greet me and brought 3 sheep as present. They thanked me for the dash last given; gave assurance that no one of them has been to the Englishman to buy goods, in which they would continue if there was equality in price ~~(also they are in want of benden)~~; request very urgently to give the sheets for 20 p. pr benda, which refused, well knowing that the party has none, and has sold his at 20, 21 p. Hope to sell ours at 18 p. pr benda. I had both the slaves, whom I had taken with me yesterday from CABO CORS, ~~examined~~ sharply examined ~~whether they knew where the 20 p. serge~~ whether they knew where the 20 p. serge were which their Factor had bought from the English. They declare and persist that they know nothing about it, or to have seen anything of them. Towards evening mid-day came Factor Coeymans back from Cormentijn. Reports he knows nothing more than to have seen all the serges of Jan Lad consisting in about 100 pieces, among which 30

[Cabo Cors]

damaged, and so bought 70 pieces, on my approval, at 36 p. pr Benda. Brought 5 pieces as sample. Found some very small so said to the Englishman, who had come with Coeymans on behalf of Mr Lad, that these were too small, but if he will deliver the widest, I would accept them; with which he left.

December 6. As no report came from the English, sent canoe thither to hear what he intended. The canoe returns in the afternoon with letter that he could not agree to the conditions I put to him, but was ready to deliver 70 p. Sent canoe to tell him he could bring them up; but received reply that must wait 1-2 days as he had sent a man to BIEMBA to hear if there was gold there, and if he got assurance to come and sell there, he intended to intend to sail thither, and if not he will deliver them; which is a bad deed on the statement of the Blacks, who make a great cry (gekrijt) that there is gold enough to entice the ship. ... .. In evening, come three expresses from FETU in the name of the Captain of the ACCANISTS, the second from HENNEQUA, and the third from JAN CLAESEN, all three the principal gold bringers, with news that the Caboceros of FETU, against the will of the King, and without their knowledge, had come to an agreement with the English to place a Lodge at CABO CORS, provided that 2 "pont" gold, 30 muskets, and some powder was given to the said Caboceros; asking me what I thought of this and what reply they should carry to their masters. Said I had nothing particular (~~to say~~) to say; but that I was sorry that the King and Caboceros had become knaves, and if they were not careful of their promises, we also should treat them as they deserve (~~to be treated~~); but still, I could not believe it was true. With that, they departed. Found good to proceed to del Mina tomorrow, & in passing, to sail to the English ship, and learn the truth about this.

December 7. Seeing that the English did not appear, resolved to depart; with orders to Hoozenhoeck that if the Englishman makes delivery, to pay from the worst (~~pieces~~) gold. The ACCANISTS and Caboceros came in - gave them drink - ~~and~~ and gave them orders not to sail to the Englishman. ~~Sailed~~ from there at 7.30. Arrived before CABO CORS at 8.30 at the English ship. Received there with many unnecessary shots. I told Mr Leveson what news I had received from FETU yesterday, in order to learn if it were true. He stoutly declared that there was not a word of truth in it (~~to be believed~~) and it was all frivolous lies. On the contrary he stoutly complained about the King and ACCANISTS who had let him lie here

so fruitlessly without having so far received a single Mark gold, and he intends to sail to CORMANTIJN within 3-4 days. I invited the Factor and Skipper to go with me to del Mina, to which they agreed. Arrived there at 12 'oclock. ...

December 8. With "voorwit" Conducted the English round all the warehouses to let them see how well we were supplied. They left in afternoon and intend to sail on 10th.

December 9. (Sunday). Received letter from Mouré with report that the Englishman had not yet appeared. ...

December 10. ... Sent large canoe to Mouré with three new gun-carriages for the Fort and for the King of SABOU. The frigate "Eendracht" arrived at 12. The skipper appeared with merchandise he could not sell at CRAA, and 40 boat-loads of shells which had been loaded with great difficulty and labour at PRANG PRANG, and had been knavishly deceived by the Blacks, as when he came there, and thought that everything would be ready, but the Blacks would not let any shells go before he paid as much in expenses as the Fiscal had already previously done. Brought 230 Marks gold from CRAA, and 200 ditto from Mouré. Left the Fiscal and sub-factor very sick. ...

December 11. Advice from Mouré that Mr Lad had been at Mouré yesterday for the 3 (sic) pieces serge that Isaac Coeymans had brought to Mouré, and had sailed to Cormantijn without making delivery. The ship that has now lain fruitlessly before CABO CORS for 14 days, came to anchor again before CORMANTIJN yesterday. God be thanked, that he has not attained his purpose. Hope they will not try again. ...

December 12. ... -Shells unloaded.- The Mynse Caboceros who last went in embassy with Isaac Coeymans to the King of FETU, were presented with 4 engels. ...

December 13. ... To our great surprise, we hear no news from FETU whether they will fight or enter into peace.

December 14. Report received of fire at CAMA last night in the annex of the houses and Lodge there, which the Factor thinks was caused by the Chamas, but don't believe this.

December 15. Received letter from CRAA that the Fiscal had again been to GREAT CRAA, where he had found the King of OQUY, and devised means how best the ways from AQUIMANA might be opened and the gold might conveniently come to the beach, without hindrance or injury to the traders. It had also been ~~APPEARED~~, through the help of GREAT CRAA, with the people of PRANG PRANG, where the shells have been fetched from there by the frigate "Eendracht", over the rascality committed by them of demanding more expenses than when the first agreement was made. They have promised to arrange for another ship's load of on the beach; but fear not much will come of it.

December 16. (Sunday). ...

... ..

December 22. ... See a sail, which appeared to be not far off but it was very drizzly (drizzly) weather. At 11 o'clock, comes a Black from SMALL COMPANY, named Insou, and tells me that the sail we see is a Portuguese having some women on board; which makes us suspect it is a ~~man~~ who wants to go to the Coast of Angola or Brazil and has been driven here by contrary currents. The Fiscal Caerlof had arrived here at 10 o'clock from CRAA, with his accounts, ... and hereupon found good, with the others to send 24 soldiers to the ship, and at once to go under sail to the Portuguese. The Fiscal goes on board (i.e. presumably, the "Eendracht") to carry this out, and when the "man" comes, to compel him to sail with him to before del Myna, and there to make his "proces". Shortly afterwards the Fiscal writes that the current had shifted, and could not set sail before the coming night with the land wind; with which alteration, found good to send 2-3 large canoes at once on board the frigate, with orders that in the coming night (to sail) between us and the Portuguese ship, with experienced men, in order to come and give warning, so that if the Portuguese should set sail, course might be set; and thus await what the Almighty God will grant. The Equippage Master went also for the purpose aforesaid.

vessel

December 23. In morning at day-break the frigate set sail with the land wind but freshens soberly. The Equippage Master returns and says last night he had been close by the Portuguese, and at 3 o'clock, they went from ~~the anchor with their boat full of empty casks, and so the Blacks say, she was much distressed for water, the ship with their boat full of empty casks. So he understands from the Blacks, they are much distressed for water. Hereupon I~~

have at once sent an express to the King of GREAT COMANY with the request that he will not allow the Portuguese to obtain any water, and give permission that if we find the boat on shore we may attack the same; consequently having an extraordinarily large canoe made ready, for 15 hands (~~Schoopers~~) with which the Chief Factor Coeymans shall ship, sailing first to the frigate for 10 soldiers and to wait at COMENDO for the order which shall come from the King. In afternoon the frigate anchored a short distance ~~fre~~ behind the Portuguese. From FETU comes news that last night the people of ABRAHEMBOU had appeared to within a mile of FETU. The people of FETU becoming acquainted with this, sought to take them unawares; but the ABRAHEMBOUS becoming aware of this took to flight. The FETUS got 3 heads and shot down 20 "beeste", and returned to FETU. The King of GREAT COMANY lets me know that everything possible shall be done on my request.

December 24. At day-break we see both the Portuguese & the frigate anchored close to the roads. Isaac Coeymans comes on shore and reports that yesterday, through the strong current which runs downwards he could not reach COMENDE with the canoe, but was obliged to row back to the ship. Declares further that when they anchored "with" the ship, they fired two shots to the Portuguese but could not reach it. Resolve together to send the large canoe on board the same in order to fetch the Captain, who at once comes on board and is examined. Says his ship and loaded cargo belongs to Vyane from where he had sailed 5 months ago with destination Rio de Janeiro; has little cargo of importance but some Spanish iron, 5 or 6 cases of lywaet, rosin, "pick" and sulphur, consigned to various merchants there; intends to obtain his cargo on freight and to return therewith to Vyane or some other place. Through contrary currents this "man" had been driven here. Declares it was two days ago they first saw land and did not know what land it was. They were very distressed (~~benent~~) for water. The Fiscal, Coeymans, Equippage Master, and Captain Pense sail with the Captain to the Portuguese to make enquiry whether it was so, taking with them in the boat 16-17 men to exchange for Portuguese to be brought on board the frigate. When the men came there they began to plunder in such a disorderly manner that the aforesaid officers had all their work to prevent it; indeed they sought to seize upon the women, being five in number. While I was still sickly, Coeymans comes to ask my advice whether such a "man" ought not to be declared good prize, although Coeymans was not of such opinion. Notwithstanding that I was still sick I found it advisable

to get on the move (~~to proceed~~) to proceed on board myself, in order to have all the Councillors together and to do the best for the Company there. Had a large canoe got ready and, together with Coeymans and Factor Joris Hoogenhoeck, sailed first to the frigate for Captain Pénce and then to the Portuguese, where we found the Fiscal and Equipage Master; and after having sharply enquired into everything, and the matter "~~ter joductuere~~(?) gebracht", disposed about it according to the resolution taken thereon. In afternoon sail on shore again. At 3 o'clock see a sail come down from the West, at dark anchors before COMANY.

adjudicated

[Operto]

December 26. The Portuguese skipper came on shore; said his name was Emmanuel Robero; born at Port a Port: with 27 eaters, including 4 women and 5 negros. Requested water, which was granted.

December 27. In morning the wives of JAN HENNEQUA and JAN KLASSEN, and other FETU women come and tell me that their husbands have called them to come to FETU, without being able to tell us whether peace has been made with ABRAHEMBOU or not. They thank me for the good favour and help shown to them while they have been here. It appears that this peace has been effected (~~getroffen~~) through secret gifts; but as yet there is no receipt of gold, which is entirely diverted to Mouré. - Portuguese ship allowed to have water and some caskage.

December 28. Monthly sales received from Hoogenhoeck, <sup>[Linné]</sup> Marks 110. He advises that many ACCANISTS have arrived, who appeared to bring with them a good quantity of gold. - Consequently, as it was dee after deliberation decided to fix the iron at 3 engels and the lywaet at 128 @ pr Benda, I sent express a trusty Black to CORMANTIJN to make enquiry what the last arrived ship was doing there, & further to observe the trade of the English. -

December 31. The Portuguese ship sailed. . . . The Captain of the ACANISTS, QUAU, appears to us from FETU; says that the Abrahambouwers have entirely departed and have not dared to come and attempt anything against FETU; is confident the war is ended (~~geëindigt~~) and all paths opened, and traders will shortly appear here. He greets me heartily on behalf of the King of FETU, with orders to say to me, what shall the said King have as recompense that the ship which had previously lain before CABO CORS had had no trade; and that this had been prohibited by him. Notwithstanding that we know all what the King has done (~~verricht~~ ~~verricht~~) yet we will, for various considerations

and not to provoke him to become hostile to us, "~~dit soe laten deur gaan~~" and fulfill our promises to give him a present if the English do nothing (~~and so on~~) before Cormantijn (sic. clearly meaning Cabo Cors); which has fallen out as we desired, and is a great thing for the Company.

An ACCANIST, ONESIE, the chief gold-bringer, residing at Mouré visited me ... -presents exchanged- ... The receipt of gold along the whole Coast for the month was Mk 182: oz 4: eng 11½.

Note. The following is a summary of the deaths, recorded in the Journal between 7th April and 17th December 1646; which occurred at Elmina and Mouré.

April. Elmina. On 8 days died 5 soldiers, 1 chief surgeon, 1 provision master, 1 cooper, 1 Adelborst, 1 Assistant. Total 10  
(on April 21/22 there were "4 deaths in 27 hours").

Mouré. On ~~22~~ 23 days died 1 capt'n d'armes, 1 sub-factor, 1 adelborst. Total 3.

May. Elmina. On 9 days died 6 soldiers, 1 Capt d'armes, 1 carpenter, 1 sick nurse (suicide when sick) 1 sub-factor, 1 boschschieter, 1 adelborst, 1 drummer. Total 13.

Mouré. On 9 days died 5 soldiers, 1 factor, 1 copper-slager, 1 Capt d'armes, 1 adelborst, 1 sailsjonge, 1 corpl, 1 sub-factor. Total 12.

June. At Elmina, in as many days, died 2. (Asst. & Corpl)  
Moure " " " 1 (soldier)

At Elmina died, in as many days, in July 1; August 3; Sept. 4: Oct. 1: December (to 17th) 5. These all included soldiers, jongen, baker, boschschieter, lantspassaet, adelborst, factor, sub-factor. ~~Grand~~ Total 56.

Papers and Letters from Brazil. 1646. (WIC.oc.62.)

Extract from Letter from Council, Brazil, to the Zeeland Chamber. WIC. dd. "Reciffe. 17th April 1646".

... .. with  
 "On the 21st March arrived here the two ships "Eendracht" of Amsterdam and "Eendracht" of Z Enckhuysen, with Mr Director Jacob Ruychaver having on board, 1604 Marks; 4 oz: 4 engels gold; 51,428 pounds tusks; 201,335 pounds grain; and 22439½ "arobén" St Thomé sugar; and as HH had no knowledge of the revolt of the inhabitants, his intention was to lade those two ships with 250 cases and to provide himself with the provisions lacking, so as to depart home, with further refreshments, in company with the ships that might be ready here. ... We have assisted him with 1698 pounds hard bread, and other necessities."

(end of 1646)

## Resolutions of States General. 1647. (S.G. 3228).

Minutes, in January, February and March, re prolongation of Charters of WIC, and EIC.

22nd March 1647.

"Prolongation of the E.I. Charter for 25 years."

... ..

Prolongation of the West Indian Charter for 25 years.

Still their Ho. Mo. have consented, as they hereby consent, to the prolongation & renewal of the Charter for the WIC. for

the period of twenty-five consecutive years, commencing from the 1st January of this year 1647, and that, upon and within such limits as are expressed (uitgedient) in the preceding Charter; and further, upon all the points and articles included in the same preceding W.I. Charter, together with all the amplifications, interpretations, and resolutions therupon ensued from time to time. But upon these conditons, limitations and restrictions: that op de directie, mesnagie, redres, ook verdere adistentie van de afnmd WIC. een bindich besoigne met de eerste shall be aangestelt; the trade to GUINEA, Angola, St Thomé, and Chile remaining to the WIC. for the conservation, maintenance, and prosscution of its navigation and trade commerce. And in order that this Company may be relieved in its present difficultys, their Ho Mo. consent that the fifteen hundred thousand guildens which the present East India Company will have to pay out to and for the behoof of the State, shall be transferred (overgestelt) to and for the profit of this WIC. as a subsidy. And the aforementioned fifteen hundred guildens shall not be allowed to be charged with any arrest or otherwise distrained (bekommert) by anyone who-soever, nor for any cause whatever; and the said monies shall be used and spent for the service of the aforementioned Company in the presence of and with the approval their Ho. Mo.'s deputies; the course of the ordinary equippage further remaining at its ordinary train. ...

(Note. Many minutes re Portuguese Envoy.)

4th July 1647.

Being deliberated, it was found good and decided ~~(written)~~ that the prolongation and renewal of the Charter for twenty-five years, for the WIC. in pursuance of their Ho. Mo. 's resolution of 22nd March last, shall be settled, read here in the Assembly in order to be accordingly approved, despatched and issued ... on the understanding that the besognes decreed by their Hp. Mo. on 22nd March last concerning the direction, mesnagie and redres, also the further assistance of the afsd WIC shall be taken in hand met den alder-eersten, and the decree therof be annexed, as amplification, to the aforesaid Prolongation and Renewal; and the said amplification shall be of such force and validity in all respects as though the same had, from the beginning, been inserted and comprised in the aforesaid Prolongation and Renewal. The Deputies from the Province Vriesland repeat their declaration, iteratively made, from time to time, about the prolongation and renewal of the Charters of the E. & W.I.C.s.

5th July 1647.

The draft of the Prolongation and Renewal of the W.I. Charter, settled in the forenoon by order of their Ho. Mo., being read, it is, after previous deliberation, approved; and further ordered to be despatched and issued.

29th August 1647.

Received a letter from the Directors of the Chamber WIC. at the Chamber Amsterdam, written there the 26th instant, and therewith the Points of Convocation upon which the Assembly of the XIX of the aforesaid Company is convened for the 7th September next, new style, within the City of Amsterdam; the Directors aforesaid requesting that their Ho. Mo. will be pleased to let their deputies appear towards the aforesaid date in order to assist at the said Assembly with their wise counsel, and so to help direct the affairs of the Company as shall be found proper for the advancement of the same, the service of the country, and the profit of the shareholders. Upon which, being deliberated, resolution is suspended.

(S.G. 5775). Original of above letter, enclosing the Points of Convocation, for 7th September, to commence business on 9th September. The Points ( 14 in all) are as follows:

1. Brazil.
2. Soldiers for Brazil & Angola.
3. Equippage.
4. Brazil.
- 5.

5.

How the new drafts, lately approved in the Hague (vide post under WIC.oc.4) about the trading of the NORTH Coast of Africa, St Thomé, and Angola can best be brought into train. Item, in what manner the regulation of the Caribean navigators (after approval of their Ho. Mo.) shall be pursued, and the money proceeding therefrom be placed (geaffectueert) in the hands of the General Reckenkamer, for payment of the salaries of the high officers.

6.

That distribution shall be made of the Guinea gold, tusks and St Thomé sugar lately come into the Chambers of Zeeland and the Maas.

... ..

12.

-As to the appointment of a preacher, for a long time requested by the Director on the North Coast of Africa.-  
- Also preachers for Angola and Brazil.-

... ..

30th August 1647.

" King of Congo".

"Admission of Capuchin &amp; Franciscian monks".

7th September 1647.

-Deputies, eight in number, appointed to preside at the Assembly of the XIX, WIC., in Amsterdam, to be held next week.-

27th November 1647.

Messrs Raesselt, Bruyninx, and Rosbergen, their Ho. Mo.'s deputies, having presided at the Assembly of the XIX of the WIC, held in Amsterdam, have made report of their doings and discussions, and afterwards handed over to their Ho. Mo. the minutes of what happened in the months of September and October last; for which they are thanked for their trouble, and further found good that the minutes shall be read in their Ho. Mo.'s Assembly.

5th December 1647.

-Is read at the Assembly a certain petition presented to their Ho Mo on behalf of the WIC at the Chamber Amsterdam, containing in effect that the Chamber of the Maas, notwithstanding the distribution made on the 2nd October last, refuses to let their share come to the petitioners, in the gold lately arrived from Guinea. -Resolved to

to write to the Chamber on the Maas that they shall do so as soon as possible.- ...

17th December 1647

-Letter from Chamber on the Mase at Dordrecht, dd. 14th December 1647 (in SG. 5775), in which they state they have not ~~wrongl~~ acted wrongly. Resolved to send copy to the Chamber Amsterdam.

(end of St.Gen. Resolutions)

Note. With reference to the resolution of 27th November, supra, there are copies of the meetings of the XIX at Amsterdam on the Points of Convocation for 7th September (supra), in the file, S.G. 5775. Of these minutes of the XIX, the following are noted:

27th September 1647.

- Are read the letters and papers from Brazil, Angola, & Guinea. &c.-

1st October 1647.

... ..  
Messrs the Commissioners over the sixth Point of Convocation have reported at the Assembly that they could not well complete the distribution of the gold and suger mentioned in the same, unless it be previously determined whether the Chamber of Zeeland shall draw beforehand the sum of fl80,000 being 600 marks gold, for the equippage made by them to the Coast of Guinea by the ship "'t Hoff van Zeeland", dan wel soodanige somme van penninge als ter saacke van de voors Equippage bij haar effective is uitgegeven. And secondly, whether the 300 and 600 marks in question previously received by the aforesaid Chambers of Zeeland and Amsterdam respectively, and not sent to the Coast of Guinea, will have to be brought into the aforesaid distribution; they, the Commissioners, judging that of the Maase to be excepted; but that the aforesaid gold should remain with the aforesaid ~~two~~ two Chambers having regard to the extraordinary equippage made by the same to Brazil. Upon which, opinions being invited, and being taken into consideration that some of the deputies of the Chamber of Zeeland declare that the equippage mentioned in the first paragraph was done by them at such a sum as various other Chambers have previously spent already after the receipt of the gold; it is found good and resolved that the Chamber of Zeeland shall be allowed to deduct there for the said 600 marks gold. And as regards the second, that both the items therein mentioned, shall not be brought into the present distribution;



"Boeck van verscheyde stucken soo voor demonstrant-  
 ier Extracten, en de andersints voorgevallen ge-  
 durende dat Commissarissen van de respective  
 Cameren in de Hage hebben gebesoigneert, in den  
 jaar 1647."  
 (Extracts) WIC.oc.4.

Note. The book begins with copies of communications made to the St. Gen. by the WIC, with regard to their interests in the negotiations for peace at Munster, with references to documents of 1644 and 1645.

Minutes of "Besoiignes" in the Hague, dated  
 18th March & 4th April 1647.

... ..

Copy Extract from the Secret Register of the Resolutions of the States General,

22nd March 1647.

- A minute to the effect that although on this day the States General have consented to the prolongation and renewal of the Charter for the WIC for twenty five-years to commence from the 1st January 1647, within such limits as are expressed in the former Charter; yet this is subject to anything that may be <sup>otherwise</sup> agreed upon in the course of the negotiations of their Ho. Mo. with the King of Spain, as regards the aforesaid limits. And in order to prevent ambiguity and misunderstandings that might otherwise hereafter arise, in the event of such a case occurring, a copy of this resolution, together with the other of 22nd March, shall be sent to the WIC.

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Here follow a number of accounts of the WIC.

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"Extracts from the Minutes of the business done by the deputed Directors of the respective Chambers of the WIC, in the Hague."

17th May 1647.

The trade  
 to Guinea.

Zeeland. That it shall remain on the old order and the plan lately projected in the Hague, be rejected.

Amsterdam, approves the new plan (concept).  
Maze, likewise, provided that order is also

made for the separate trading places of the North Coast of Africa, outside Guinea. WestVriesland & Northern Quarter agree with the advice of the Maze.

... ..

23rd May 1647.

Is again discussed the trade to Brazil, Angola, Guinea, and St Thomé, and most of the members persist in their former opinion, except that Amsterdam appears tacitly to notify that in case all the other Chambers shall be able to come to an understanding with each other, on the other Points, they will concur (~~be taken into~~) in the matter of Brazil and the navigation of the same by private ships.

25th May 1647.

Messrs the deputies from the Chamber of Zeeland have represented that for some days now there has been discussion about drawing up unanimous advice in the matter of the "directie, mesnage en redres" of the WIC., and that nevertheless, because of the disparity of opinion, it appears that those advices are notto be brought to unanimity; and also that heavy discussions have now and then begun to arise about it, which it were better to be ~~avoided~~ prevented, than longer encouraged, and that they have therefore found good that all the Points upon which there ought to be discussion at present, should be simultaneously (gelijkelyck) brought up for opinion, so that it can be seen from there instruction and advices of the members, whether they can be brought to unanimity; and if not, that each Chamber should be allowed then to deliver in its own particular advice to the Government. Upon which ~~it was proposed~~ were put forward by the aforementioned deputies from Zeeland, the following seven points: 1. The trade to Brazil. 2. The trade to Angola. 3. The trade to St Thomé. 4. The trade to Guinea. 5. The approval of the regulation for the Carribean navigators. 6. The Brazilian wood. The document of the 100,000 guildems, in question. Upon which aforesaid Points the Chamber of Zeeland advises: 1. To conform with the advice of the Chief Participants formulated in the Hague on 15th December 1646, with the additional clause in the margin. 2. To approve the regulation drafted, provided the recognition of the slaves transported into (out of ~~uit~~) Brazil be placed at 50 gulden instead of 60. 3. To approve the scheme (concept) projected by the Commissioners in the Hague, 8th April 1647.

4. To remain on the old order and to reject the new plan (concept) projected at the Hague on 8th April 1647.
5. To approve the regulation placing the "recognition" of the tobacco at one shilling in the pont vlaamsch ... & to let the said recognition be received by the controllers of the country. 6. ... 7. ...

The Chamber of Amsterdam advises : 1. to conform to the advice of the Chief Participants, except the clause placed in the margin. 2. To approve the regulation, provided the "recognition" is placed from 60 guildens to 30. 3. To approve the plan(concept). 4. To approve the new plan(concept) also. 5. ... 6. ... 7. ...

The Chamber of the Maaze advises: 1. That the trade shall be driven on the order observed hitherto, without letting private persons navigate with their own ships either from here or from the Islands. 2. To approve the regulation if the recognition is placed from 60 gulden to 50: the commissions being issued by the respective Chambers in turn, and according to the ninth parts. 3. To approve the plan(concept). 4. Likewise to approve the plan(concept) , provided that order also be made for the separate trading places outside Guinea. 5. ... 6. ... 7. ...

The Chambers of Westvriesland & Northern Quarter advise: 1. To let Brazil be navigated on the old footing, nevertheless allowing private persons to navigate with their own ships from the Islands; who, nevertheless, shall not be allowed to load sugar in Brazil unless they are chartered by the supreme Government. 2. Agree with the advice of the Maze. 3. Approve the plan. 4. Likewise approve the plan. 5. ... 6. ... 7. ...

The aforesaid respective advices, being heard, the Gentlemen from Zeeland, as the presiding Chamber, cause to be noted that through the disparity of the advices, and absence of the Chamber of Town and Country, nothing is concluded.

6th July 1647.

As hitherto, in the discussions over the matter of the trading of the Company's Atlantic (?- the word seems to be "atlandige") conquests, the most difficulty was found in regard to the trade of Brazil and GUINEA, various deliberations have again taken place, the matter was finally found as can be seen from the document of agreement inserted as follows:



The Deputies from the respective Chambers of the WIC., assembled in 's-Gravenhage, after many debates and counter debates, have resolved that for the present the Coast of Brazil shall be traded and navigated in the manner and footing customary hitherto namely, that the trade on that Coast shall be open and free to every one, upon this condition nevertheless, that all goods and merchandise shall be brought into the Company's warehouses, and shall be carried over by the Company's own or chartered ships upon the "recognition" and freight fixed thereon; everything by turn of the respective Chambers.

And is further resolved that the trade of Guinea and St Thomé shall be regulated in the future and provisionally on the basis of the plan (concept) now devised lately devised, the same to be religiously and punctually pursued according to the contents thereof; upon this understanding that the turns shall commence with the Chamber of Amsterdam, and that the Chamber of Zeeland, at the first Assembly of the XIX, shall deliver in an accurate list of the cargoes last sent from Zeeland by the ship "Hope" to Guinea, and that that Assembly shall judge what the said Chamber shall reasonably be compensated there for.

Item, that Angola for the first two years shall be navigated in conformity with the last regulation.

And that the aforesaid deputies undertake to get their principals, by every means possible to agree (agreeen).

... ..

29 July 1647.

The aforementioned deputies from the Chamber of Amsterdam have requested that a distribution might be made of the gold, and ~~sugar~~ St Thomé sugar lately received by the Chambers of Zeeland and Maze; whereupon the deputies from the Chamber of Zeeland have declared that they indeed agree to the distribution provided that they deduct from it the 600 M. gold for their equipage last made to Guinea. Those from the Maze maintain that the distribution ought to be made at an Assembly of the XIX, and that they will there give everyone satisfaction; meantime letting it be known that they understand that the 180,000 guildens received by the Chamber of Amsterdam for an equipage to Guinea, ought also to be brought into the aforesaid account. The matter is consequently held up.

Note. The date of the last Minute in the book is 1st August 1647.

The next item in the book ("IC.oc.4.) is:

Advice of the Chamber of Westvriesland & the Northern Quarter over the present need of the WIC, and how the same, being helped and restored, ought to be directed and dealt with.

Considering the extremities into which the state of the WIC. has fallen, and that now and then, at great expense, to the Company, various meetings and discussions have been held, but with not with such result that a sufficient and definite means has so far been discovered by which the ruin (vervallene) can be erected and a definite and uniform basis fixed.

... ..  
The Chamber of Westvriesland and Northern Quarter, being moved (gepermoveert) by deputies from the Directors and Chief Participants of the Chamber of Amsterdam, have, on the 24th September 1646, delivered their considerations (bedenkinge) to the Directors and Chief Participants there.

- And since, on 26th October 1646 the XIX in Zeeland brought forward a short statement how and in what manner the Company (in kours and trade) could exist.-

Upon which has ensued that the Chief Participants of the respective members, being met in December last in 's-Gravenhage have produced a certain project, drawn up among themselves (except those of the Maes & Groningen) and delivered the same to the gentlemen of Zeeland in the Assembly of the XIX; upon which, on 20th December, resolution was taken that it should be further examined by deputies. ...

And as the Chamber of Westvriesland will again afvaardigen op de present uit schryvinge of reces in 's-Gravenhage. they have thought it necessary, for the information of their deputies, ... to "resume" the aforesaid discussions, and to serve the members present with their advice.

... ..  
Paragraphs 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. - Relate to the trade at St Paulo Loando.

7.

Regarding the COAST OF GUINEA., it is understood that it shall remain closed, to be traded by the Company alone, upon the basis practised hitherto. It is also understood that the trading of slaves (for Andre & the Calbarien) shall be taken in hand for the account of the Company, and that suitable order be given for the despatch of the necessary cargoes.

8. St Thomé ...  
 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. Brazil ...  
 16. N. Netherland.  
 17. Ships, goods, &c of private persons, not complying  
 with above, to be forfeited.  
 ... ..  
 ... ..  
 ... ..

Thus done at Hoorn, in the Assembly of that Quarter,  
 on the 22nd March 1647.

The next document:

Considerations of the Directors & Chief Participants  
 of the Chamber of Zeeland submitted in accordance with  
 the order of the Stat. Gen. dd 30th March 1647, re-  
 garding the "Redres, Mesnagie & Handeling" of the Dir-  
 ectors for the maintenance and "subsistence" of the  
 WIC., -under the new Charter ... .

This is a very long document, first referring in detail  
 to each article of the Charter. Then 6 paras regarding the  
 trade of St Paulo de Loanda. Then:

7.  
 Regarding the trade Coast of Guinea, ... (similar to  
 paragraph 7. in the report of the Northern Quarter supra,  
 p. 124) ... ..

The follows, "Regulation for St Paulo de Loanda for the  
 period of two years, consisting of 12 paragraphs, of which  
 para 11. reads as follows:

"The aforesaid private traders shall not be allowed to  
 navigate to any other places on the Coast of Africa, out-  
 side St Paulo de Loanda, nor to any islands situate there-  
 abouts, nor to drive any other trade than that of slaves,  
 as it is emphatically declared that the Company is re-  
 taining for itself the trade in Koper, elephants tusks &  
 what further occurs there."

Then follows "Further Points of Mesnagie & Redres".

Note. This ends the notes from the Book WIC.OC.4. as  
 the contents of other documents are sufficiently noted  
 under the Resolutions of Stat. Gen. under 1648.

Notulen van Besoignes, WIC. (WIC.oc.3)  
 There is nothing of importance to note in this book, for  
 1647.

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Letters & Papers from Brazil. 1647. (WIC.oc.63)

Extract from letter from the President and Council,  
 Brazil, to the Chamber Zeeland, dd, "Recif de Pernambuco  
 the last March 1647".

... ..  
 "We may well suffer that YHH countermand the ships from  
 Guinea calling here, and provide us with means of money  
 otherwise from the fatherland. We shall hold on as long  
 as possible, lacking one thing and another, and finally  
 be compelled to break up here. ... .. - With refer-  
 ence to a letter from the Directors of Angola, they  
 ask the Zeeland Chamber to make such provision for the  
 North the South and North Coasts of Africa, that they (in  
 Brazil) are excused from doing it.- ...

---

Copy letter from the Directors, WIC. to the Director of  
 the North Coast of Africa, Jacob van der Wel.  
 In den Hage, 9th August 1647. (WIC.oc.10)  
 Hond, Prudent, Trusty, Wellebeloved,

With the arrival of the ships "Eendracht", "Veere", "St  
 Pieter" and "Regenbooch", on 18th & 19th July last, we re-  
 ceived YH's last of 18th March last, and from it have  
 learnt, inter alia of the sad disaster overcome the ship  
 from the Chamber of City Groningen & District, and the late  
 letters sent by that ship. We have therefore found good  
 to let this present yacht from the Chamber of Zeeland, other-  
 wise destined to Arguin, and to call in there and deliver  
 those letters .... The Chamber of Amsterdam is now busy  
 equipping a ship to the Coast according to the new order  
 devised thereant, which will be communicated to YH in due  
 course, and we trust will give opportunity to provide for  
 the Coast better than hitherto. By that opportunity, we  
 we will, as far as shall be necessary, reply to your afore-  
 said last, and concluding, remain &c &c,

YH's good friends,

The deputed Directors of the respective Cham-  
 bers of the WIC. In the Hage,

(sgd)

W. van der Heijden.  
 M. ten Hove.

P. Marcus de Vogelaer.  
 Herman Willemsz.

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Letters from the Gold Coast to the WIC. 1647. (WIC.oc.11)

(1) Original Letter, Fiscal Hendrick Caarlof to the WIC.  
 Del myna, 12th January 1647.

Honble. Hond. Worshipful, Wise. Prudent. Very Discreet Sirs,  
 Sirs,

I should not have neglected to have written to YHH, along with the General, by way of Brazil, by the ship "Hout-tuyn" of Medenblick, chartered by the Chamber of Groningen to Pharnambucq, and "~~vierviel~~" on this Coast on 5th August, but as, being at delmyna, I understood that the King of GREAT CRAA had closed the trade, I was obliged to hasten thither with all speed. On my arrival there, the King himself presently appeared to me in the Lodge, from whom I demanded the reason, and the cause that moved him to close the trade. But I could get no definite answer, but he said he would open the trade again. Meantime, the afore-named ship departing, my letter to YHH, sent to Delmina, missed it.

On the 4th July arrived the ship "St Pieter" from Rotterdam, on board of which the General, in my absence, proceeded, catching sundry goods which were standing ready to be conveyed in a canoe by night; from which sufficiently appears, as also was to be seen "aan de veedorn" of the sailors, that it was fairly full of private goods; all corners, therefore, were searched daily (as is continually done with ships arriving) until the ship was unloaded, when the goods were proceeded against, amounting, besides fish hooks which were declared free, to 15 Marks gold, which were confiscated, as further appears from the invoice and sentence.

On the 1st August following (1646) appeared before Axem the Swedish ship "St Jacob", which came before Del myna on 4th ditto, on which, as captain, was Arent GABBESEN, well known to YHH; having on her many Netherlands seamen, as YHH can see from the list written by Gabbesen himself, & which the General got into his hands. I made protest (~~protest denden~~) that all those who were Netherlands and had no evidence of having a settled residence (~~woonachtig waren geseten~~) in Sweden should be taken off from her; when she would have been too weak to be able to put to sea again with the remaining Swedish and Danish seamen, and would have been frustrated from his further voyage, and had to seek refuge (~~uitvluchte~~) here on this Coast;

but this was not judged advisable by the Council, as YHH can learn from the document made on the matter.

[Smuggling by crew] [ On the 8th ditto, I was informed by a certain Black, kept on hand for the purpose, that the boat of the Swede had been to the ship "St Pieter" at night, and that of the "St Pieter" had been there, and although I was of the mind to proceed / at once (~~set out~~) on board, nevertheless I asked the skipper of the "St Pieter" who appeared alone before me on the battery, what the boats were doing sailing thus at night; to which he replied that it was because of that that he had come after me, and that his men had bought some liquor out of the Swede, wherefore, in order not to be continually troubled with a drunken crew, he asked that steps might be taken about it. Whereupon I proceeded on board and discovered 49 ankers liquor, which produced 45 full, which were also confiscated according to sentence.

The ship "Eendracht" from Zeeland, coming before Delmyna on 29th September, the General had already, while I was coming up from CRAA, discovered sundry goods. In my inspection I found that the "Constapels Camer op den overloop wyder en langer was als in de broot Camers, dat my deede bevroeden een verburgen gat moste weesen, 'twelck synde het Cogel gat, teegens de spiegel aan, welck luyck seer behandeluyck was tougepaackt en gedreeven, sulcx men anders niet als de naden van de planken mochte bemerken en noch met listen en rommelingen overdeckt"; but ~~on~~ having opened the same a good quantity of goods was concealed therein; such being confiscated, would have profited me remarkably if, partly, the underselling had not brought them to a low price and also most of the goods were in "courant", whereby the sum was not brought so high as otherwise it would have done.

Being also assured that the soldiers were rather "heelders" of the thieves than supervisors to prevent such, I, with the General, found good to employ slaves instead of them, who are more suitable than the soldiers for opening casks cases &c, necessary for the examination, whom we instructed, with severe threats that if they let themselves be corrupted we should have their heads cut off, and on the other hand to recompense them with a good reward; and up till now they have quitted themselves well, in which we shall both see to encouraging them.]

As we are informed by a certain Englishman (arrived yesterday) that Thielman Willekens, who had formerly served the Company as Factor on this Coast, was lying trading at CABO

APOLONIA, with a fluyt of 150 tons ~~(less)~~ and a yacht, and being therefore obliged to proceed with all haste to Axem to look after everything, and not being certain of being able to return before the departure of the ship "Eendracht" I must therefore conclude this, referring for more detail to the General.

With which, &c  
YHH's obedient servant,

Actum del Myna  
the 12th January 1647. (sgd) Hendrick Caarlof.

(2) Original Letter. Dir. Gen. J. van der Wel to XIX. WIC.  
18th March 1647, on the Frigate  
"Eendracht" in the Roads of  
St Thomé.

(The letter is written throughout in the present tense, & the first part seems to have been written on the Gold Coast, & perhaps on the voyage to St Thomé also.)

Hon. Hond. Most worshipful (Grootte Achtbare), Wise, Prudent, Very Discreet Sirs,

Honble Sirs,

Through the Grace and Direction of the All-Highest, time is again granted us to make all necessary reports of what has occurred both on the Gold Coast of Guinea and the Island St Thomé since the departure of the ship "Haerlem", and after having done that piecemeal when the ship "Houtijn" of Medeblick parted from the Gold Coast and the ship "Golden Star" of London, before Cormantijn, sailed to England; copies of which letters you can see in the annexures. But it might happen that YHH received this before the "Houtyn" letter and documents sent therewith. Therefore I send copies of the same papers & annexures.

But before we introduce the state of the Gold Coast & St Thomé, we have to say that that we heartily regret to see so many ships and yachts of foreign nations that have appeared on the Gold Coast with Commissions from the Crowns of France, England, Denmark, and Sweden. Various of them have their principal trade based on the slave trade, nevertheless some with small cargoes of value on the Coast of Guinea, and remain for a while, which yet cause great injury to the Company, both on the Tusk and Quaqua Coasts and Assiné, scratching up what trade falls there, so that YHH's yachts find little, without keeping still in drawing

to themselves everything that comes to hand in the Bight. Moreover, in the period of 10 months, we have had on the Coast 3 ships and 2 yachts on behalf of the English Guinea Company, laden with well assorted cargoes, both for Guinea and the Bight, namely, the ships "Hope", "Golden Star", & "King James", die voorwaar ten principale hebbe aengetast and led us to prepare for underselling, so that they should perceive that the Company has not become powerless (as they daily spread abroad and that they will shortly see a chance to ~~withelpen ons~~ (get rid of us?), as their masters intend henceforth to take the Guinea business seriously in hand. But through the well and timely arrival of the ship "St Pieter" of Rotterdam, we have treated them so well that they creep into their shell, and daily cry ~~wevers ons~~ that the Coast is of no more good, because of the large remainders which accumulate through the bringing down of so little gold, since the departure of the ship "Haerlem", and having to sell their goods according to ~~(wevers)~~ us, & cannot make the desired remittances ~~(wevers)~~ as previously when YHHs' equippages were so slack ~~(wevers)~~. In short, this is one of the best means to make them weary, the more so as they have not St Thomé from which to benefit, so that they could which used to ~~(augment)~~ their underselling on the Coast. Therefore shortly, and while the matter is being dealt with ~~(den gansche konst)~~, it is highly necessary for the Company to keep the Island St Thomé "in reputatie", even were it that YHH could hardly make both ends meet ~~(gese de enden niet welcander cost weeren)~~, for if the Company loses St Thomé, then is the Gold Coast also lost. But we hope YHH will be satisfied this last year, with the profit brought to the Company from St Thomé. It would shape all the better if YHH encourages the inhabitants somewhat by sending money, and that upon the conditions hereinafter declared. We will leave this for the present and come to pointing out the doings of the aforesaid slave traders, as far as they have come to our knowledge; and in order that it may not fall too long in a letter about it, it will be useful the annexed memorandum of when each ship or yacht arrived, to be found in the accompanying Journal, will be useful to YHH. But ~~die noodichsijn van gescreken in woort-ten, en daertoe gescreken~~, this requires to be said in the matter of the English Company ships. In the letter sent by the "Haerlem" we advised that the ship "Hope" from London, on which the factor was Tymon Molgrave, arrived on 30th November 1645 with a well assorted Coast cargo, and as we were lacking all "bijwaren", he was therefore able to sell as he wished; but as regards his lywaet and copper, we have bravely stopped him and ~~preven~~

Relp us out /

support /

prevented him from receiving gold; which has detained him, so that he did not part from the Coast before 11th June 1646, and for 3-4 months he had to give his crew subsistence money (~~asetsel~~) in order to live from the country. I gave Mulgrave a letter to YHH, under cover to Mr Willem van der Heyde, in order thereby to provide that the letter were not opened.

The ship "Golden Star" from London, 70-80 tons, and yacht named "Maria Constant", 30 tons, arrived on 3rd July last before Cormantijn; as the ship "St Pieter" of Rotterdam likewise did; bringing a cargo of f. 148,479:2-, as also for St Thomé, amounting to f. 8,899; having on board 100 eaters, among whom 20 soldiers for the Gold Coast and 30 soldiers and seamen for St Thomé; at which we heartily rejoiced, both in order to oppose the English in their newly brought cargoes, and to provide the Forts with men. In opening and examining the aforesaid merchandise, we found some damaged and short, which you can see from the accompanying attestation; as also the very knavish tricks that the bead sellers are beginning to employ, so that the bead work is not only bad, but in the cases that are paid for by YHH as "pasta quispelgreyn" at 19-20 pieces the lb, are thrown many bad worthless "quispelgreynen" of 12-13 pieces, all too much of which we found, both in this cargo and in that which the Zeeland frigate has brought. Whether this was done with the knowledge of the receivers or not, is unknown to us, and after this, it ought to be well seen to that it is done no more, and strict supervision that a good assortment of beads work is brought, as it is of great concern that the English usually out-do us in better assortments. But we cannot easily forget the first-rate bead work that the last ship from Amsterdam brought us here.

There is scarcely one cask of copper work in which we do not find 10, 12, or 13 pounds short, so that it seems to have been done purposely by the sellers, and thus to get seek to get in the interest upon what must be given on credit somewhat long. More attention ought also to be paid to the copper work that it may be of such assortment in sizes as in the formulas asked from YHH, for if they are smaller they remain with us as we cannot persuade the Blacks to buy them.

*the numbers/* The casks of arm rings we find agree in pounds, but many mistakes occur in making the "~~reductie in stucc~~", and as they are brought into the accounts by us in pieces and not in pounds, you will please in future have them accurately counted in each cask.

The victuals received by the "St Pieter" suffered damage by the leaking of the oil, of which from the 2 awms sent for the country not more than 40 cans were received by me; besides which, 676(?) lbs stock fish, both short & spoilt, according to the attestation. We have not dared to issue these victuals to the garrison. On 6th July last the yacht "Dolphyn" of Hoorn arrived before del Myna. It had transported 162 slaves from Arder and brought 160 to St Thomé; proceeded from there to the Tusk and Quaqua Coasts and traded 5,278 lbs elephants tusks, 56 pieces Quaqua cloths and 14 engels gold. By that yacht I received advice from Commandant Molder that the Commisaris Gerrit Hasenberch had died on 28th April. The trade had been placed in the hands of one Carel Verschuren who sailed out as supercargo on the ship "Loande" of Zeeland, who indeed has little experience to handle such matters. No proper statement was made to me either of the remaining or traded merchandise, still less of the victuals. Commandant writes to our charge a fright that he was victualled for no longer than 4-5 months from 18th July 1646, and that if he did not shortly get relief he would be obliged to abandon the Island, as YHH can see from the copy of his letter in these annexures. About this I considered it necessary to make provision and to send by the "St Pieter" the quantity of victuals indicated in the list. Truly this Island causes me much anxiety chiefly because I have so little material on the Coast to appoint another in Gerrit Hasenberch's place. I beg YHH please to employ experienced Factors, and to send none but are well trained in writing accounts bookkeeping &c. Finally I thought good to send thither Factor Reynier Doucques, whose time of engagement had almost expired, who sought to evade it with many excuses, but by the exercise of authority he agreed to occupy Hasenberch's place at a monthly salary of f.108. He departed thither on the 21st July with the St Thomé cargo (brought by the "St Pieter") by the yacht Dolphyn which, after unloading the cargo, will sail into the Bight to trade 150 slaves.

The arrival of ARENT GABBESSEN, and his doings on the Gold Coast, we reported to YHH by the "Houtyn". What further was carried out, I have done with the advice of the skipper of the "St Pieter", which ship we despatched on the 21st September, which departed with 560 Marks gold and 1,800<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lbs elephants tusks, in order to pay attention to the doings of Arent Gabbesen, and to proceed to St Thomé to load the sugar that was ready; but at first not to hurry in this, but previously, and until the end of November, to cruise round or lie at the Island, as he with Commandant Molder shall find advisable, in order to prevent Arent Gabbesen attempting

anything to his profit with the inhabitants of the Island, as our intention then was to let the St Pieter go by way of Brasil and to depart with the first fleet; but the arrival of the Zeeland Frigate caused us afterwards to resolve otherwise. In this good fortune served us that the St Pieter encountered ARENT GABBESSEN about rio d'Gabon, and on the 5th ditto (October) Arent Gabbesen came on board the St Pieter and, so he said, had obtained there 260 slaves and some elephants' tusks; had sailed out of the Calbary on 23rd September, and had been in great peril of losing the ship; indeed it had come so far that Arent Gabbesen had already packed up his handiest goods to bring them on shore. He said his crew were reasonably healthy, but already had 24 slaves dead and some still lying sick.

According to instructions, skipper Blaey had been ordered on meeting Gabbesen, to remain by him if this could be done; which was accomplished by harder sailing and so they dropped anchor together at Cape de Loop, when Gabbesen already had 30 dead. Meantime this advice was satisfactory to us, especially the sequel to it. It happened that on the 14th October they set sail together, and on the 16th ditto got sight of the Island St Thomé, but Arent Gabbesen disappeared from them on the 18th. Whereupon there was nothing better for them to do than hastily to put in at "rolletjes" - (perhaps meaning the very small island immediately south of St Thomé named I. Roles on the map in Dapper, p.250, and I das Rolas on map in Linschoten edition of "Brun's Schiff-farten", and that in Labat's "Ethiopie Occidentale" Vol.I. "Rola" in Portuguese means "turtle".) There they found Arent Gabbesen anchored (~~seen~~, ~~stranded?~~), who, when he saw the St Pieter, made sail and met him, and so they sailed together to the west till the 25th of the same month, when he parted from him and proceeded back to "rolletjes", before which he cruised for 2 days without hearing of Gabbesen; and so came to anchor with the ship on the 29th before Fort Sebastiaen. This is all the report we can make about Arent Gabbesen, beyond saying that when the St Pieter was sailing after him various dead Blacks were seen drifting; and it is certain that he had (lost) at least 40, to commence his long voyage; as ordinarily it is two month's work before one can sail into Barbadoes from Cape de Loop; and with this we end what has to be reported about Arent Gabbesen.

~~And because we are accustomed to go to work in this, according to the lapse of time, we will "volgens memoriij" point out that the yacht Fortuyn of Amsterdam, in its trade, "van herder", transported (sic, Arder?) transported 197 slaves and delivered not more than 156 at St Thomé, so that the mortality in it may be called great; but the attestation~~

causes us, after enquiry, to believe this. "YHH en moet geen ook hebben off sulks door valsheyt van getuige geschiede", but to pay attention to the genuine declaration of the principal officers of the ship or yacht. Altogether the two yachts Dolphyn and Fortuyn have therefore together delivered 316 Arder slaves at St Thomé. On the ~~am~~ same voyage the yacht Fortuyn sailed to the Bight to trade tusks and 150 slaves to St Thomé, and on the 1st August arrived before del myna; was shortly got ready again, and on the 25th set sail again to trade tusks and slaves in the Bight; but Factor Dirck Geerlofse we are keeping at del Myna in order to let him go again to Arder in the coming season, as we have no one else competent on the Coast. We authorised skipper Claes Wrancke to perform the duties of Factor on that yacht, without as yet increasing his monthly pay; but first to see how he will manage.

On the 25th ditto (~~October~~) (August?) arrived the yacht Visser, which had sailed from the Coast on 9th April last, first to the Benyn, where it found that the Factor Callenaer had died on the 18th March; took off the cloths there, consisting in 4890 P.-reckoned in "eleene" retail, the account comes out properly- and left the Assistant Jan Claessen Podt as Factor, whom we have put at a monthly pay of fl2 - f20, from the 18th April, when he took over charge. The yacht's trading has had a sober result, bringing 8,031 lb elephants' tusks and Mk.8, Engels, 3½, in gold.

On the 16th September arrived the fluyt ship Regenbooch of Middelburg before del Myna, skipper Huybrecht Adriaense who declared to us that he had set sail from the Recif in Brasil on the 10th August last, with instructions from the Messrs the High Councillors to sail to the Island St Thomé to load sugar (which we thought strange, not doubting that those gentlemen have an extract of the resolution of the XIX of the 14th December 1644, that only the Guinea ships shall take off the return cargoes at St Thomé). It is very unnecessary for this to be taken in hand and to drive the Company into expence over it, as the four ships that ought to come to the Coast annually can well come short (wel cunnen schorten). This ship having reached the Gold Coast through contrary currents and wind, was not neglected (verzuuynt), but came at a convenient time as there were no ships or yachts on hand to carry on the slave trade before Arder and to carry them to St Thomé; for with the arrival of the yachts that had traded the Bight, Commandant ~~Maider~~ Maider advised that there was a want of slaves at the island. We therefore had the ship supplied with water and firewood and furnished with a cargo under the supervision of Factor Dirck Geerlofsen, and it left on the 16th October, with instructions to trade more than 400

slaves of which we have ordered 40 to be sent to the Coast by the yacht *Regal*, to be employed there (sic), and to transport the rest to St Thomé. Afterwards I show here how many it delivered.

According to the Journal should now be mentioned that on 25th September I got advice from Chama that there had appeared in person before the Factor Geret van ~~Tes~~ Tets one Johannes Metkalf of Amsterdam, who stated he was lying before Tacrary with two English ships, and requested that he might come before Chama in order to obtain water there; which the Factor did not care to allow before he had orders from me. Metcalf offered to sell some merchandise suitable for the Coast, and then intended to sail to the Bight to trade slaves. I have forbidden to let them fetch water, seeing that it is much easier to obtain at Tacorary than Chama; but it saves them incurring ~~expence~~ <sup>expense</sup> which they would have to pay to the Blacks. On the 27th "includs", Metcalf appeared at ~~Elmina~~ <sup>Elmina</sup> del Myna by a chaloup, together with the Curagyn of the ship that lay anchored before Comany. Metcalf made a "remonstrant" to some questions that I put to him, principally how it came that he had not remained in the service of the Company. He declared he had asked this several times but no place had been granted; therefore he had sought his fortune with the English in this ship named "Bonaventura", 130 tons, mounted with 20 ~~brass~~ <sup>iron</sup> guns, 43 eaters. The equippers (uitreders) of this ship are named William Aswel, William Metholt, and Robert Louter (?) merchants at London, together with the said captain Ritherson, each for a fourth part. They had been to the island Bona Vista, where they had taken in 20 tons (last) salt, and so had come trading along the Tusk coast and, so they said, had obtained 8,000 lb, mostly for arm rings. This can well be believed as none of our yachts have been able to trade tusks for a long time through lack of arm rings.

Metcalf showed us the invoice of inladen merchandise which in total amounted to about 29,000 gulden, which he offered to sell to us absolutely. The samples of the beads which Metcalf let me see ~~were~~ not suitable and he had no chance of ~~el~~ selling them here to the Blacks. He said he had a thousand staves of iron to offer for sale, all Swedish iron. The serges were as fine as any I have ever seen with the English and resemble the Leiden ones in colour; but nevertheless of somewhat coarser twill (keeper). Having come to council about this, what we should do for the interest of the Company - for we knew that the English Guinea Company had not more than 300 hundred staves, and most were refused (refuys) so that we had already raised the Company's from 3 to 3½ engels and if they were not bought by us they

will compel us also to give them at 3 engels, and keep us "in devotij" till the arrival of their expected ship; meantime (we) still profit  $\frac{3}{4}$  engels on each stave; and the serges they will not neglect to buy because they are made so naturally after the Leiden ones - therefore it was highly necessary to buy, if we could arrive at a reasonable price. with Metcalf We fixed a price with Metcalf how much we intended to accept the goods at, about which he could speak with the captain.

Metcalf asked for an opportunity to speak with me alone and complained very much of the bad treatment the English gave him. He offered me that if I would employ him in the capacity of sub-factor, to be willing to resign the 50 gulden he now earned with the English and to serve the Company for 30 gulden. I replied to him that I could not do so seeing that the gentlemen at home had given him no employment at his request. He stood very sadly and said he would seek an opportunity to get away from the ship although he had to go about in the bush (in't bos) so long as the ship was here, and take the opportunity of getting away from here by an English or Company's ship. In all the actions which we observed in this person it was not otherwise than that he had a knavish character. I should also make him no cashier over my purse. He sought for a long time to be able to come "ergens in't vatte", but could not get his wish. In the afternoon the Curgyn sailed on board to make report to the captain. Metcalf remained at his request, and with the intention of seeing if I could get any information out of him whether there were any Hollanders with the ship and cargo. He declared there were not and that he knew of no others than the aforementioned English. He showed me a contract made with them that he should earn 50 gulden a month provided he gave security for 30,000 gulden for his fidelity. In fine Metcalf might well stay out for Mr Ritherson & his brother afterwards died & now there is only the Curgyn who also was very sick at Cape Loop. In conclusion, and for brevity, for what occurred further, I refer to the accompanying Journal.

Bought from Ritherson:

1000 ps staves Swedish iron	a 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ engels tp.	Mk.17-4-10
20 ps blue serge	a 24 engels tp.	3-6-0
20 ps canneckens	a 5 engels tp.	0-6-4
20 ps ettecon	a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ engels tp.	0-7-3
24 ps perpetuanen	a 22 engels tp.	4-1-0
4 ps nopjes	a 8 engels tp.	0-2-0

Mk.27-3-1

On the aforementioned it was shaped to make a good profit for the Company if the English ship, named King James, had not arrived on the 6th October; which caused the iron to be fixed at 2½ engels again. Meanwhile, up to the end of December last, there were sold:

474 ps iron staves	a 3 engels t.p.	Mk.11-0-14
226 ps ditto	a 2 engels t.p.	4-3-42
20 ps blue serge	a 36 engels t.p.	5-5-0
4 ps perpetuanen	a 32 engels t.p.	1-0-0
4 ps nopjes	a 11 engels t.p.	0-1-6
		Mk.22-2-8½

So that we paid them with their own "lappe", and the Company still made a profit, and in advancing the money suffered no prejudice as the proceeds are nearly all in the chest (~~was~~) again, and the English frustrated from them.

On the 3rd October "incluys" we duly paid Capt Ritherson and he took leave in order to depart. Meantime Metcalf, who had now and then brought his goods secretly on shore came and told Ritherson that he did not intend to go to sea with him, again but remain on the Coast until he could depart by an English or Company ship. Ritherson showed displeasure and made a protest that one was seeking to keep his men who were bound to assist in his and his Masters' voyage. In order to prevent disaster to our yachts, I feigned to prefer that Metcalf went with him than remain, and that we did not need him here. When Ritherson observed my intention, he let the former protest quietly drop and gave consent to Metcalf remaining, being glad to be rid of him. The Honourable Gentlemen insist so strictly that every one of our nation, whatever position he holds, shall be taken off from foreign ships. It is, under correction, not without significance (~~not to be destroyed~~) that the Company hereby stands in danger of losing some yacht or other. The foreign nation(s) say outright that if the Company does them but a stiver of damage they will see to getting a gulden in place (when) they pass the Bochtselde or encounter some Company's yacht or other. YHH will please take this into consideration, and you can guess well this, that if we do them damage, they will not leave it unavenged.

On the 29th September last arrived the frigate Eendracht of Zeeland; sailed out of the Wielingen on 26th July, mounted with 20 iron and 4 brass guns; having 63 eaters, among whom 19 soldiers to serve here; the ship, about 100 tons, chartered by the Gentlemen of the new Direction, at f.1360 monthly;

which is truly a great deal of money. It brought a cargo of f.148,641. 12 stvrs, for the Gold Coast, and one for St Thomé amounting to f.13,680-13-12. With vexation we saw from the invoices the ill-assortment of this cargo. It appeared that no regard had been taken to the formulas, in accordance with which it ought to have been formed. Much more lywaet was sent than was required. The serges which ought to have been 600 p. came to only 300 p. Sheets which ought to have been 6-7000 came to only 2,800 p. The Holland "Manteesjes" are spoiled goods and trash which cannot be sold to the Blacks at 3 gulden, and cost 37 stuivers. All the "tycken" and large and small "aneba" might well have remained behind. The tin work so heavy and so full of lead that they cannot be disposed of at all. I do not know for what purpose "benyt" hooks were sent again as my predecessor had so earnestly written that no more be sent. YHH can see how many from the general remainder how many we still have here, and can sell none. In th/bead-work much falsification has been committed, bad "quispelgreyne" being found instead of "pasta". It appears that "er jonge papenbroecken" begin to come. YHH will please to provide for this. I regret that I must complain about the cargo, but fear that if I made no complaints there would be still more carelessness. To follow the formulas <sup>as much as possible</sup> is the best for the Company. It appears as if there are many goods on the Coast; meantime it is stocked (beset) with 50-60,000 gulden in gross, that will remain long on hand, unless the English equipped soberly, and so the Blacks be pessed for them against their will.

By the aforementioned frigate came to my hands YHHs' acceptable letter of the 21st July last and the annexed appendix dated 25th ditto, which I shall proceed to answer; and first proceed to the point about the the foreign ships and yachts which have been appeared here; which is that after the what had previously been written, a ship and yacht (appeared) on the 24th October. I sent factor Jan van Sweeden on board by canoe, who, on return, made report that it was a small ship of 80-90 tons, mounted with 14 guns, and 40 eaters, named the Samaritan, flying a French flag, and having a commission from that Crown. The Captain born at Dieppe (Diepen) named Matheus Neel. The skipper, Hendrick van den Burch, from Vlissingen, previously in the Company's service as skipper on the ship Nassou; besides which some more natives of Holland and Zeeland; declared he had sailed out of the Maas on the 18th June and took in their lading before Schiedam; had traded a parcel of tusks on the Quaqua Coast, but had no Coast cargo; would not make known where he would transport the slaves he intended to trade in the Bight; had a Jew on board, who received much "credyt"

in the Cabin. The yacht, about 25 tons (last), named the Young Samaritan, Capt Jante Lier. The aforementioned Van Sweeden put before the skipper how did he dare (word illegible) to take this in hand thus. He replied that he feared nobody and that he well wished to break with the Company (~~and well as de Compagnie seegen hadde~~) as they had done injury to him and his. He complained very much that the Company had detained him for three years, and always given him hope of employing him, until he had consumed his substance (~~alsh geconsument~~) and had now found honest masters. He passed Del Myna in the afternoon without reducing sail, or we being able to learn if he had dropped anchor anywhere along the Gold Coast; but afterwards appeared at Cape de Loop, where he had come out of the Calvary with 200 slaves, many of whom had died, nearly all the crew sick, and Captn Neel also dead.

We dispatched the yacht Visser of Amsterdam on the 25th October, laden with a parcel of St Thomé merchandise, for the Island, and after delivering the same, to take the Bight-trade in hand; with further orders to call at Princes Island to learn the state there. When it returned to St Thomé, the Factor delivered his journal to me, in which is included the report of what he found at Princes Island, which VHH will find also in the ~~enclosures~~ annexures.

On the 22nd December "incluys" we saw a sail to the west, lying at anchor not more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the west of the Castle del Myna, in very drizzly weather. Fiscal CAARLOF came from CRAA, and brought his account of the sales since he has lain there. Shortly afterwards a Black appeared from SMALL COMANY. He said the ship in sight was a Portuguese, having some women on board, which gave us suspicion that it might be an "onvrij man"; and as the Fiscal reported that the current was running about (om) the West, found it advisable at once to set sail with the Zeeland frigate. Sent 24 soldiers on board. The current had turned, so could make no progress with sailing; so had to wait till night for the land wind to come up. And in order that this "man" should not escape us, and to be able to obtain a right understanding about it, I had three canoes made ready provided with suitable paddlers, which should take up positions in three places between the frigate and the Portuguese, and if they saw him making sail, to give warning by firing; with orders that a competent Whiteman should be placed in each canoe. The Equipage Master, Herbert Claesen departed at the closing of the gate, by canoe, for the aforesaid purpose.

On the 23rd ditto, at daybreak, the frigate Eendracht set

sail with a moderate land wind. ~~sail-with-a-moderate~~  
 The Equipage Master returned and said that the previous night he had got close to by the Portuguese, and in the early morning at 3 o'clock they had sent their boat from alongside (van boort) full of empty casks. In the afternoon the frigate came to anchor a good cannon shot to the East of the Portuguese

On the 24th ditto, at daybreak, we saw both the Portuguese and the frigate close to the reads. They anchored before del Myna. The Chief factor, Isaac Coeymans, whom I had sent on board the previous day to assist with advice, came ashore. He reported that when they anchored yesterday they fired two shots on the Portuguese, but could not reach it. The friends therefore thought good to send the large canoe with Coeymans on board to fetch the captain, who showed himself willing, and declared that his ship and inladen goods belonged to merchants at Vyane (?), from where they had then sailed five months before, with destination Rio D' Genero; he had little lading of importance, 14,400 pounds Spanish iron, 5-6 cases lywaet, "herpuys pick & swavel", consigned to various merchants there; he thought to obtain his lading in sugar freight, and to return with it to Vyane or other places; had reached here through contrary (verleyding van) currents; and it had been two days previously that they had sighted land without being able to surmise what land it was. That evening the Fiscal, Coeymans, and the skipper of the frigate, with 16-17 men, sailed with the captain to the Portuguese to arrest her provisionally, and to exchange men against theirs. When the men came on board they at once proceeded to plunder in such a disorderly manner that all the officers had enough to do to prevent it: yes, they sought to attack the women, consisting in four persons. Coeymans, who considering my sickly condition had thought it not advisable (for me) to go on board, asked my advice in the matter, whether this "man", ship and goods cargo ought not to be declared forfeited; but was, nevertheless, of the contrary opinion. Although I was still weak and sickly I nevertheless plucked up courage to sail on board, and to assemble all the members of Council, to effect something for the best interests of the Company. We could find no papers (brieven) among them which referred to stopping at other places than Rio de Genero. We examined the crew separately, who declared they knew nothing else about their voyage than that it was intended to Rio de Genero. The captain, and named Emanuel Robero, and the mate made similar declarations.

And seeing that we had never been informed by letters from the Honourable gentlemen, or any one else, that those of Rio d'Genero had been disturbers of the peace, but on the contrary had separated themselves (hun gepareerde) from the rebels in Brasil, and displayed no hostility towards the Company, and we did not know that the ship or crew had such in mind, it was found good by the Council, by a majority of votes, to grant this ship and crew safe-conduct, and to restore all the plundering that the men had done. We allowed the Portuguese to fetch some water and accomodated him in some small things and he departed on 31st ditto.

The yacht Reaal of Amsterdam, which we had sent from here on the 10th November last to the Benyn, to convey merchandise and take off return cargoes, had, on its return touched at Arder and taken off 40 slaves from the latter Factor, Dirck Geerlofse, and brought them to, on the 3rd January, together with Benyn returns, 47 4,008 pieces in small cloths, which were as bad as ever seen. The Factor, Jan Podt, advised that the English got hold of everything that comes there and managed to buy nothing bad; but in coming up the Coast they had sold the large 4 "bants" at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  engels; which formerly they could easily sell at 4 engels. In short, the Benyn trade at present is of little signifiante for the Company.

On the 11th January last, arrived a "doch" boat from London, having sailed 10 weeks previously. The Factor, named Mr Biseh Bisschop, had made various voyages in slave trading, which he now had in mind, to bring them to Barbadoes. He declared he had found in Serlioens a small boat (bootje) about 40 tons, on which was factor, Albert Sniemt, skipper Rutger Janse of Schellingwou, with destination the Bight, for slaves, and the Island St Thomé, for which he said he had little goods; further to Barnadoes where he intended to trade his slaves, sell the small ship, to ship the return cargo by freight on a Holland ship and so return home. Sniemt, chief boatswain, "was op dese Bisschop geraackt", who was examined and told us he knew nothing else but that that small ship had been fitted out at Amsterdam, and coming into Texel, sailed out with other ships but, through contrary winds, went in again where most of the crew deserted the ship, where most and he then "opraakte sonder dat hij wist waar de reys laag(?) gelegen", and when he asked the skipper this, he replied "Well men! as I am risking my body, dare you not do so also?". Bisschop further told us that as he came sailing along the Coast he found a galjoot lying before Assine, with factor Tilleman Willekes of Amsterdam, with DANISH Commission, but that the large ship, standing "onder regaerd" of the aforesaid, lay trading on the Quaqua Coast

\* Doch boat or Dog boat - a type of vessel used in the cod fishing on the Dogger Bank. [Zeemans Woordeboek van Lemmings]

and had already obtained 3½ tons (1st last) tusks. He thought he would also visit the Coast; and, in order to come to the end of the Tilleman matter, it was found good by us to send the Fiscal to AXEM, who encountered the ship and galoot before CAMA; being a fluyt with 14 field guns (goteling), 36 eaters, 140 tons, named Prince of Denmark. Tilleman said he had the position of skipper with a genuine Commission from the King of Denmark, which he showed to the Fiscal besides papers of citizenship (borgerschap) at Gulucadt. He had no Coast cargo; intending to sail to Calbary without anchoring anywhere, for slaves, and further to the Cribes Islands. Besides Tieleman it appeared that as skipper also was one Marten Konnich, also formerly in the Company's service. I have had enquiry made by canoe whether he came to anchor anywhere along the Coast, but have not been able to learn it. The Factors on the Coast murmur greatly among themselves, why the Company has not employed this Tieleman, and say that he had endured such severe voyages by continually sailing into the Bight, and now to get no employment must fall hard, as they are not aware but that he had behaved properly. It greatly discourages your servants and creates disgust towards the Company.

As the aforementioned Bisschop had arrived in the morning, another English ship came into the roads, together with an open chaloup. Fiscal Caarlof came on shore with the Factor Joseph Tiringham and Skipper Francisco Crover. They said the ship was about 80-90 tons, mounted with 16 gotelingen, 36 eaters, named Swallow; sailed out of the Downs on the 21st December, with destination to the Bight for the purchase of 200 slaves; they hope (vertrouw) to the Calbary, seeing that their accompanying chaloup had been set up with 2 "reseyls" in Rio Chester (sic - Sestos?). They brought news that the commander (opperhoofd) of the Company's "leggers" there had died, and they found no one there else but an English sailor who had previously deserted from an English yacht, and was enticed by the deceased's "legger" to remain with him. As his first companion had been drowned in the river, this English sailor would like to have cleared out from there with the grain, a good quantity, and elephants' tusks that he had with him there, and to ship everything in this English ship. But the King of the country made difficulties about it, and would not allow it, seeing that they were not the rightful masters of the goods; but the King advised the "legger" to wait till the coming of the Postpaert; Postpaert; which has gone well according to our wish. The English sailor complained stoutly that he had been daily so importuned by the King in demanding gifts and presents, that it was not to be borne. We hope that the Postpaert will have found everything as it ought to be.

Having made this report these people offered to sell us some merchandise and they were willing to part with it at a reasonable price. I had the Council assemble to consult about this. It was resolved that if they would sell according to our wishes, to accept the same, provided everything they offered was current; except the serges which were not indeed entirely current; but seeing they were almost of the same colour as the Company's which are sufficiently sold, it was therefore necessary to buy them in order to stop the English serges, who keep themselves strictly at 20z the piece; and to get these at 40 gulden the piece we intend to place them at 56 gulden the piece, and YHH will still make large profits and bring "d'Elas" in the English Company, which is stocked with a large quantity, very bad, and be assorted besides them. Menatime we hope we shall obtain Holland "sufle" (??). The ACANISTS, when they have no gold on hand beg us for the Yerse deekens & the fine tinwork that they offer to buy as it appears very fine to them also, and when any gold comes down they will at once fetch it away. It seems to us also very highly desirable to be able to sell the heavy tinwork that the Zeeland frigate has brought. In short, the goods pleased us well and consequently were bought as the best interests of the Company required; for this is certain and true that so far as the Company lets these current goods lets these current goods escape it they will get into the hands of the English or of the Blacks who by buying goods from the slavers, gain much money annually. But we shall keep good look out to buy something from the English Guinea Company ~~traders~~ merchantmen, either remainders or otherwise. In short, to proceed with the business, the following were bought from them:

79 p. blue serge	at 20 engels t.p.	Mk. 12-2-12
129 p. yerse deekens	at 12 p. p. benda.	2-5-8
725lb tinwork	at 70lb p benda.	2-4-11 $\frac{1}{2}$
740 p. yellow armrings	at 7 pr engel.	0-6-9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Marks	18-3-9 $\frac{1}{4}$

Truly the sellers have not made much profit on these goods, for they have let us see, in confidence, the invoice of purchase, and with strong oaths have affirmed that each p. serge has cost their masters 30 gulden in England; the yerse deekens 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  gulden; tinwerk 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  stuivers the pound; armrings 4 stuivers the piece. In case YH will continue wish to continue in this, and we see a chance of making a profit for the Company, you will please to advise us. In my opinion it is necessary for the Company, for as stated before, if it is not got into our hands then the English Company of the Blacks get possession of them. YHH will

*Yerse deekens*

also suffers no prejudice as we shall not buy unless they are current. We made them due payment and they departed. Likewise came the aforementioned "doch" boat, which in the afternoon put to sea with a strong sea breeze, back again to the roads, when it was dark; but was warned by the frigate Eendracht, with a shot, not to come into the roads at night, but dropped anchor a little from the roads and came to the Zeeland frigate. The skipper offered to sell a parcel of goods, whose purse I believe, was not well furnished. He was not pleased that I would not buy his goods. Seeing no chance, he proceeded on board, raised anchor, and sailed along the coast to before Cormantyn.

The yacht Dolphyn of Hoorn appeared from the Bight and windward places, on 15th January. Its traded **tuaks** consisted in 11,242 lbs, of which 9,721 lbs to St Thomé in accordance with order, to the Commassaris Douckes, in order to be laden on the ships coming there. The rest, traded on the Quaqua Coast was shipped in the ship Eendracht. The yacht New Enckhuysen had brought 103 slaves to the Island, having carried 115 out of the Calbary, so that 12 had died. Factor Francisco Meyfert had died on 22nd August, which if God had pleased I would gladly have seen otherwise, since we are so short of Factors, both on the Coast and Bight. The letters from the Commandant Molder and Reynier Doeckes urged me strongly not to neglect to proceed in person to the Island, and the Portuguese were greatly longing for me, chiefly to speak about the matter of trade; while also I was necessarily required with regard to Gerrit Hasenbergh's accounts, and the large amount of debts among the the Portuguese in them. Also I did not see that Commandant Molder had made any progress in affairs concerning the extract from YHHs' letter, received by the frigate Eendracht; and seeing that at this time there was not much business on the Coast, I have, for the service of the Company, and my own peace of mind, thought good to proceed thither by the ship or frigate Eendracht; and so sailed from the Myna roadstead on 17th January. How we found it there, I shall refer to later in detail, and before taking that in hand shall reply to the points in the letter received from YHH by the aforesaid frigate concerning the Coast of Guinea, and bring that which concerns St Thomé to the suitable place.

Firstly, as regards the ships and letter to which YHH refer, they have, praise God, as stated before, arrived safely, and we learned with joy of the arrival of the ships by which Mr Ruychaver departed, as we hope to hear of the ships that have departed from the Island, namely St Pieter of Amsterdam, Frigate Eendracht, and Regenbooch of Middelburgh borch, with return cargoes of 1,300 Marks gold. From

which YHH will understand that the accounts from mid-May to end-December do not amount to more than 1.268: 3: 2½ engels, and the rest 31: 4: 13½ was taken with me to the Island St Thomé, to see if I could make any profit with it by the purchase of sugar, and as I could not tempt them, I considered it advisable to send it to YHH.

It has gone in almost the same way with the elephants' tusks as the accounts of purchases does not amount to more than 18,009½ lb, and as they were by my order collected at St Thomé all what was traded by the Bight yachts after closing the accounts, YHH will see that 19,598 lbs are now being remitted, which will be written off in credit in the next following.

- The amount of sugar at St Thomé.-

- To return to the reply to the letter in the two points he has to thank them for the congratulations on his appointment.-

- As they truly say, merchandise is necessary to carry on successfully.-

The foreign merchantmen will not have to boast of profits made during this last year, which YHH can make sure of if you take the extract of accounts into your hands, that they if they would have gold, they, as well as us, must sell goods. The ships St Pieter of Rotterdam and the Frigate both came at a suitable time when their ships arrived. As regards attracting the ACCANISTS, which one would gladly see, it is not practicable so long as the English hold them at Cormantyn. Mr Ruychaver took much trouble about it, and we have not stood still, but desired to see it. I have offered to arrange for new houses for each without cost to them. They say, indeed, that they will come, but we see no effect. There is little room (plaats) at D'MYNA; add to which, it is renowned among the Blacks as being more unhealthy than other places, and "gaan swanger" that the MYNSE are skilled in poisoning anyone and in strewing fetich in the ways. In short, there is little to be done in this, as they do not come to us of their own inclination. That YHH consider "geen cladding behouwen te moveren es als aan DEL MYNA" the Company could find themselves deceived in this; for at Mouré dwell many fine merchants who will not so easily be got to del Myna; for if they see that one keeps the trade there dead (dood stelt) there, then it is to be feared that they will retire to Cormantyn. I have communicated with some of the principal ACCANISTS, who strongly dissuaded me and said, "Have you not sufficiently assailed Mouré, that used to be your oldest and most renowned place, by

[underselling  
ought only  
to be done  
at Aboma?]

capturing d'Myna and are you trying to suppress it entirely? You will do wrong." For the King of ZABOUW, who at present possesses the Kingdom and is a friend to the Trade and the ACCANISTS who are particularly grateful to him, will be annoyed if he is deprived of the profits and, instead of a friend, will become the Company's enemy; or meanwhile, in order to alleviate his losses, one would have to dip freely into the purse every year. But all this is the least; for because of a "Hantgedraey" and small disputes among the Blacks, the paths are immediately closed, so that the ACCANISTS could not come to de Myna, like as, God knows, we have experienced for three months, and then they bring their goods to Mouré. On the other hand, if the paths to Mouré are sometimes closed through war, the gold finds its way ~~back to de Myna~~ to de Myna.

In abandoning the port of CORMANTYN, I see no injury for YHH, for in my opinion when one is underselling, the less gold received, the better, and when there is no underselling then the Blacks come to us at the places where the goods are; so that the expense of keeping a yacht ~~is~~ saved. To treat the ACCANISTS so that they are contented, I am very much inclined, but the way they abuse it comes troublesome; in these days one almost needs to get up from one's chair and let them sit in it. Accory is at present reasonably obtainable at ACRA, whereby, praise God, we find the port is improving remarkably in the receipt of gold; which is greatly the cause that we give things somewhat cheap at ACRA. But if there is underselling this causes the gold to be held up there, as otherwise through the great difference in price, it came to the leeward places. One of the English Factors, who came to visit me at de Myna, stoutly complained about the receipt of gold, saying among other things that we used to get such fine gold from ACRA, and now we (sic) see it no more. In short, they complain and lament as they will like.

YHH say that you are very sceptical ~~(scep)~~ about entirely abandoning any trading places &c, but neither in his (synder) nor in my time have we abandoned any except COMANY, which we were obliged to do through the great mortality of Factors and sub-factors. Also it is not of the least interest for the Company, for it gives us gold and is a smuggling house ~~(shyachuyas)~~ for the Factors, so that I do not intend to establish another lodge in my time, unless YHH order it.

At AXEM, as I advised YHH in my letter of 1st June, through lack of men, the garrison has been reduced to 12 men, and if YHH do not approve the reduction being made, men must be duly

sent for it, which we find has not been done, and instead of the frigate Eendracht bringing, as it ought, 20 men for the Coast and 30 for St Thomé, not more than 19 men in all have appeared, which I hope will be supplemented shortly later. In my opinion AXEM could do with 20 men, so that the Blacks do not become our masters; but if enemies appeared from outside, with the serious intention of attacking it, 30 men could not help, and the Fort is not worth so many, seeing the sober profits YHH draw from it. For this District maintains itself with nothing else than by trading for cloths, twice a year, on the Quaqua Coast; which we have forbidden unless a reasonable toll is paid to us, which, because of the small garrison, they stoutly oppose; and as I wish to go to St Thomé it has stopped at that. But, on our return, we intend to pursue the matter and to make a trial whether the expenses can be alleviated by that means. The effect of it YHH will have to learn later.

We shall henceforth see that all the tusks that come from the Bight by the yachts shall be left at St Thomé till the arrival of home-going ships, so that YHH may always be served with a return cargo as far as possible.

We find that YHH are dissatisfied that something was allowed to the Fiscal out of the "~~enocerie~~" found in the northern Eendracht, and that not everything was confiscated. It was done with the intention of not making cease in diligence; but we shall follow your orders in future. Separate accounts are kept of all goods detained, and the duty (~~recht~~) that is due to the Company from them will be accounted for by me at the proper time.

We are pleased that YHH find the gold better than it used to be. We earnestly request that this being sent may be taken notice of, and do not doubt you will be satisfied with it; but we observe that the English are not so careful and accept it more easily. Therefore experienced Factors and sub-factors are of great importance; of whom we are provided with none at all. On the 10th and 17th December we lost two fine fellows namely Jeremias Looten, who was a great writer and bookkeeper with every prospect of doing good service for the Company, and that was also to be expected from Willem Lantman, subfactor.

If YHH wish properly to maintain the garrisons on the Coast of Guinea and St Thomé, 50 men for St Thomé and 30 for the Coast ought to be sent by each ship, for the stipulated time for most of the men has expired; then something of YHHs' orders could be taken in hand, but what can one do now? I found on my arrival at St Thomé not more than

129-130 men, among whom 20 sick and infirm ... (further thereon. St Thomé) ...

- The "Roij" frigate sent is unsuitable. -

As regards the victuals at del Myna, we are sufficiently destitute of them and we are very concerned with what I shall feed the men who sail on the yachts, with regard to what I have sent to the Island, as stated before. Therefore it is necessary to supply, if possible, for 200 men for one year, and if the yacht Medenblick is added, than for 25 men more. The accident of the oil on the St Pieter leaking out ~~out~~ comes difficult. YHH may believe that economy with the victuals is not neglected; but we trust we shall receive some by the ship from Amsterdam or Groningen.

- He will do his best to see that the Surgeons use the medicines only for their own men. -

- Again asks for a Preacher. On sick nurse goes home by this ship and only one remains on the Coast. -

- As regards victuals, he asks that all ships may be victualled for not less than one year, as the voyage can never be done in a shorter time. -

In the matter of Fiscal CAARLOF, I hope YHH will have decided whether he shall continue to trade, besides his office. He is stationed much too far away to fill both offices. He is still properly diligent in the duties of Fiscal.

I request copy of the Placade of their H.M. St.Gen. that has never been placed in my hands, about the the taking off of our nationals from foreign ships. If YHH take this up so strongly you will come to suffer damage, for the ~~foreign~~ foreign nations seek nothing else than embroilments (~~embroilments~~) and, with some, to take off one or two sailors from their ships, there would be danger of losing the Company's yachts.

That there is a small number of competent factors and sub-factors on the Coast of Guinea is certain, and we ought to be provided with them, the sooner the better, so that we can let the old ones leave, on their long reiterated requests. I cannot equitably keep Isaac Coymans, factor & Bookkeeper at Fort Nassouw longer than January next. ...

- They think the amount of powder asked for is too much, but he cannot do with less. They must remember the yachts have to be armed and in their voyages to the Bight they must consume powder by firing one or two shots at all ~~places~~ trading p<sup>l</sup>aces as signal of arrival. ... -

- He is grateful for the salary accorded to him which is the same as that allowed Mr Ruychaven; but as he is responsible, besides the Gold Coast, for St. Thomé which deprives him of more nights' rest than Guinea, if he had been allowed f400 a month, he would gladly have surrendered the f100 to be relieved of St. Thomé.

- He will carry out their orders about St. Thomé.

- Expresses thanks for the share of the limejuice allowed him.

- He will, as ordered, instruct the skippers going via Brasil about not taking out any of the return gold there.

- Before replying to the points about St Thomé, in the letter under reply, he will first proceed with the state and situation of Guinea, and say,

that it is not to be doubted that you will be extremely surprised at the sober returns of gold that were made last year by the ship Haerlem and now by these ships; which had its origin, especially in the autumn, when the ACKANISTS got into open war against the District from where the gold actually comes, and that, over an insignificant dispute. A certain slave in ACCANNY, who considered he had been badly treated by his master, contrived to kill his master, and took flight into the District where the gold comes from. He appears to have been well liked there, as he had for many years carried on his master's trade on commission (there). The friends of the murdered master demanded the slave, to punish him, which was refused on the other side, which aroused such hatred between the parties that the trade was entirely stopped by it, and no sale of goods was done. The beach ACCANISTS, indeed, show themselves as much grieved about it as we, especially because the merchandise has stood at such moderate prices for long months together, and what they buy remains with them without any sale in ACCANNY. Before I departed from the Coast I had a meeting with the principal of them. They unanimously declared that they feared that 6 or 7 months will still elapse before the gold is ready to come down again to the beach; so that it is to be feared that future returns will, in many ways, be bad. From St Thomé YHI have to expect little sugar ... Elephants' tusks will not come in large quantities, as along the whole Bight the Blacks are at war with each other.

The part of the boundary, (landpaalen) of EDOM, which formerly used reasonably to increase the amount of the

receipts in gold, is also not free, so that we have seen little from there for a long time; but these paths ~~(paths)~~ were about to be opened shortly, to which we daily used diligence to effectuate. The King of GREAT COMANY "tegen dewelke die van EDOM hebbe gestelt hem ons op ons versouck verseeck seer gevouchlijk daar de EDMERS groote onredelijckheit teege toone". Meantime we hope for the best.

The King of FETUW <sup>did many strange acts</sup> committed many ~~raucalities~~ last year. Firstly, with regard to the present King of GREAT COMANY, named TACY, who is one of the principal authors of the King of FETUY getting possession of his Kingdom. This TACY had need of the King of FETUY in order to come into the Kingdom of GREAT COMANY; therefore TACY delivered a good sum of gold to him on the condition that when TACY intended to carry out his action against those of GREAT COMANY, the King of FETUW would give him assistance with a good number of men; which he failed to do, and thus, after the receipt of the gold, did nothing for King TACY. Nevertheless, TACY, with the help of the ABRAMBOWERS, achieved his purpose. Meantime the foregoing had been appraised between these two Kings; and they entered into a good alliance with each other, and King TACY used diligence to establish his State. The King who had been driven away by TACY seems still to have had some gold with him, and sought, with the help of one of the great ~~of~~ CABOSEROS of GREAT COMANY, his kinsman, to bribe two Quarters in GREAT COMANY and to turn TACY out again. The CABOSEROS aforementioned, by gifts of gold got the King of FETU to his help ~~(to go to the help of)~~ to carry out this work. The time having come, the aforementioned Caboseros summoned the King of FETUY's force, and attacked King TACY at night, who bravely extricated himself and defeated those of FETU. More than two hundred men were slain, among whom many Chiefs (groote), and the King's eldest son beheaded. Out of this arose a bloody war between the two Kings, for he of FETU swore that he would seek revenge and avenge the death of his son, even though it cost him his kingdom. It would undoubtedly have been taken in hand if those of ABRAHEMBOU had not threatened the King of FETU to make war on him, and for more than three months they lay against each other. The ABRAHEMBOUERS have their boundary close to (grensen dicht om) FETU, so that in the time mentioned hardly any gold has been received at D' MYNA, and the little that came out of the country was diverted to MOURE. In short trade suffers damage and the devil earns his bread.

In these troubles between FETUY and ABRAHEMBOU there appeared, on the 25th November, <sup>(1646)</sup> before CABO COORS, the English Company's ship named King James, not knowing where to seek profit on its cargo, as daily it had had receipts at

CORMANTYN. But in order to prevent him, as far as possible from getting any trade we used our utmost exertions, by sending our deputies, on several occasions, to the King of FETU, and seriously admonished him to the fulfilment of the Agreement made with Mr van Yperen and afterwards renewed by Mr Aarent Jacobsz deceased, and Mr Ruychaver, on pain that if he did not comply with it, we should "de hant <sup>close our hands from him</sup> met hem sluyten van" all the enjoyment ~~that he draws~~ daily from the Company; to allow no market at DE MYNE for his community; and to set fire to ~~(in brand schieten)~~ the village of CABO CORS, by bombardment, if they go on board the English. I had him further told that I should close the trade and have all our goods brought to Mouré, in order to divert the traders (from whom, in time of peace he daily receives great profit). The deputies reported that they found the King very confounded by these proposals, and could perceive that he had got a fright. The ACCANIST Captain and the ACCANISTS under him we daily persuade (with promises not ~~less~~ to sell the goods <sup>to</sup> ~~than~~ the English) to help in hindering this business; who side with us, and dissuade the King, in order to avert all disasters. The English Factors, (surprisingly) do not proceed to FETUY for the furtherance of the matter, but <sup>tried hard</sup> ~~take great~~ trouble to get on board the two principal traders, namely JAN HENNEQUA and his brother JAN CLAASE, who <sup>would</sup> might not leave FETUY because the ABRAHAMBOUWERS lay so low near; but <sup>who give</sup> ~~give~~

it the name that they do it to please us, in order to place us under an obligation to them. For various considerations we must let this continue as if it were true.

The King, meanwhile, goes with fire in the one hand and water in the other. He is very diligent to get both parties to give. He gives us the consolation (but always asking what is best for himself) that he will afford the English no trade; to the rivals (~~at present~~) he gives hope that they will attain their purpose, but that they must advance the business by gifts both to him and the Caboeeros. In short, Thanks to Almighty God, the English did nothing to the injury of the Company; and after they had lain for a month fruitlessly, the English Factor personally declared to me that he had not received a pound (pont) of gold, he raised anchor and dropped down again to CORMANTYN; which is to be regarded as a great matter for the Company. It has cost the Company about 2 marks gold in merchandise, for presents. Whether the English will make another attempt hereafter, time will show.

The King of ZABOUW we daily find deals obligingly with us; treats the ACCANISTS to their contentment, and uses diligence to draw them to him. The English are daily at variance with the BRAFFO of FWTYN FANTYN, and great disputes arise as the English seek to steal the goods that the ACCANISTS buy from the Interlopers, and to draw them to them. They base their right upon an Agreement made with the BRAFFO, who replies that he will not be bound, but keep his port open for all nations who come.

On two several occasions have come to us deputies ~~from~~ on behalf of the ACCANISTS of CORMANTYN, who consist of 5 or 6 principal men (Capitalen), the Caboceros of BRAFFO FANTYN, and Caboceros of CORMANTYN and ANNEMABO, with the urgent request that we would yet once more grant them a ship or yacht to occupy their port, begging us very respectfully that we would forgive our former dissatisfaction, promising that they would show improvement in future; and that if we would establish a Lodge at ANNEMABO, permission would be freely given according to wish. I replied that I accepted their coming as friends, but was surprised that the making of a Lodge at ANNEMABO was now indicated to us, as the BRAFFO had made full promises to place one at our pleasure, even at CORMANTYN, and that, at such place as we desired. The deputies from FANTYN interrupted this statement and saw a chance to be able to persuade the Braffo to the establishment of a Lodge on the sea-side between the village and the English Fort. I promised to report this matter to YHH. Whatever resolution YHH are pleased to take herein it is necessary to dispose about it. The Blacks ["comen ons seer aen de hant";] but I cannot think it to be profitable for the Company to keep a yacht or ship there, but a Lodge with 4 or 5 men "en hangt al de weerelt niet aen". This YHH must keep as a fixed maxim, that if there are any goods with us that the English have not got and they see a way of making a profit, they will not buy current goods from the English, but seek them from us at Mouré and MYNA. The ACANISTS say generally "If you keep a similarity of price for selling the goods, and yours are as good as the English, why should we take the trouble to go to CORMANTYN with canoes, which comes expensive?" It seems as if they were trifling with us in this, but they complain that in former times the Factors did not follow YHHs' orders, but without (your) knowledge ~~withdrew~~ the goods. I declare that in these times I have not to complain about it with this, with regard to the Factors Coeymans and Joris Hoogenhouck, who occupy the principal Factories. It is also very satisfactory to the Blacks that I keep my eye on this, and tell them, in the presence of the Factors, how many pices of such kind of basins they may receive per benda; how many knives and beads of each kind; but I will assure YHH that so many surplus cases will not be found with these Chief Factors, as formerly; which ought to be reckoned a pest in the trade than profit for the Company.

The trade at CRAA, about which I began to write, appears to be improving, in the coming down of gold, because some of the paths (~~passes~~), which have been closed for years long, have been opened; but the people of GREAT ACRAA could not agree, at our request, to let the ACCANISTS, who come

[come much  
to our  
hand]  
collaborate?

[proppings]  
all yet  
[others]

with hold

out of those districts (landpalen) travel ~~right~~ <sup>through</sup> (gone) to the beach, but buy out if their hands, which would tend to the great prejudice of the trade. We hope, by small presents to the "Commandeur", to attain our purpose.

The "Accory", about which YHH write, which has its origin in AQUIMINA, we could with care obtain quite 30-40 Marks annually, but it comes so bad, and because of the quantity which the Districts (landschappen) can produce, we could hardly get gold bartered for accory at the windward places. These things are therefore of little importance; but to bring the port of CRAA again to 70-80 Marks gold ~~annually~~ monthly, would be serviceable to the Company. The Fiscal is still occupying the Factorship there. It seems that the Blacks are reasonably contented and are on good terms (~~wel gepast~~) with him; but he is stationed too far away in order to do "execution" in matters that occur. Whether YHH are pleased to let him continue, we ought to have your resolution on our letter by the "Haerlem"; and although he is absent, I always proceed to new coming ships and yachts, until he appears in person, as YHH can perceive generally from the Journal; and the "Seneesen" who came by the Zeeland frigate were caught out both by him and me. [En van afgenoome de coopman-

[smuggling  
by the  
crews ]  
schappe die YHH werde aangewesen in nevengaende bylage op syne nomber, gelooff vrijlick dat het Sineese sich van 't selfs sal verbiede; eerstelick om dat het een groote roey in't patria sal brengen beyde scheeps volck, Ste Pieter en 't fregatt, soo dapper syn in clem gelooopen, Hebbe oock sommige respective en die mij duchten wel de grootste en vermogenste te syn aengesegt dat bij aldien ick haar in mijn regeering meer op de cust sie en in clem crych, andermael soo sal aentasten en als soldaet aen de MYNA of 87-8 'tFort St Thomé sal laten dienen. De meeste part antwoorde dat als in tyde van min refeering hun meer op de cust sag, vrij mogt laten ophangen; soo dat de 'snesery dus doende een eynde sal neeme. De Seeuen syn

mijns bedunckens eenichsints beclaechelick, want de goed-  
eren die hebbe becoomen gaet meest al het volk aen, en  
ieder verclaert d'een 50, d'andere 60 a 100 f sich selfs  
aen te gaen, 't is oock wel te mercken 't rechte verstant  
niet hebben, vermits verscheyde Ponde couralen teegen 26-27  
stuyvers in Holland wel sijn te becoomen en meest onwillich  
goet en byna geen tyt weten wanneer vercocht sal raecken. 3

As a warning serves that this ~~rigor~~ ~~ness~~ rigorousness  
committed by both YHH and us could be moderated by increasing  
the monthly pay of those sailing to Guinea, or otherwise  
you may take it as the truth that the Guinea waters (vaer-  
water) is getting into such decadence that I am afraid YHH  
will not be able to get any respectable men on the ships.  
It is a pity that the Northern Hollanders are so grossly  
infected with the dirt of "snesery". Sailors who will  
behave as courageous men at sea are desired, but I am con-  
fident they will all desert YHH. It may be that with the  
next coming ships from Amsterdam and Groningen some more  
may be caught by us, as the difficulties which overcame the  
"Cineese" on the St Pieter and frigate are not yet known to  
them. I trust it will hereafter entirely die out. 1

- The ~~trade~~ Arder trade. ... slaves to St Thomé. ...  
complaints about the beads. ... 50 slaves received on the  
old debt. ... Factor Geerloff's good service. ... what goods  
to be sent to Arder. ... presents to the value of 2-300 guld:  
should be given to the King of Arder. &c. &c. 1

- A new ~~boat~~ required for the trade to the Coast - and  
cables.-

- Again asks for Factors to relieve the Chief Factors  
Coeymans & Hoogenhouck; and for Arent Cock & Huybrecht  
Gägeldonck to be sent back to the Coast again.-

- Complains about the paper and books; new ones required.  
Also Equipage necessities for both Guinea sand St Thomé.-

As regards the yachts, those on the Coast (Fortuyn, Visser,  
Ryaal, Dolphyn) can do service for some time yet. - Parts  
for sheathing then required. New yachts should be similar  
to the Dolphyn, which is more servicable than the others.-...

- As to cables required.- Also water casks, 100 "half leggers" for the slave trade.- Also hopes will not be forgotten to be sent the materials to make new roofs for the Church in the Castle MYNA, where the merchandise is stored, and lime, as few shells are to be got at D'MYNA.  
- As to the 40 boat loads of oyster shells obtained from PRANGPRANG.

- As to St Thomé. ... .. -

- Therefore, as stated before, I proceeded from the Coast on 17th January by the frigate Eendracht, and on the 26th ditto in the evening arrived in the roads about a goting shot from the Fort St Sebastiaan. ...

(The rest of the letter, ~~from p. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000~~ relates to the affairs of St Thomé).

I beg YHH please to excuse me from going further with this letter ~~(/ (F))~~. I refer to the Journal and dare not detain the ships longer, as each ship is manned with few men, and 9-10 sick. - He is attacked by fever every night. ... Herewith, &c,

YHH's faithful servant,  
18th March, Anno 1647, on the (sgd) J. van der Wel.  
frigate Eendracht, in the roads of the  
Island St Thomé, off the Fort St Sebastiaan.

Honble Sirs,

With grief and sorrow and to our sincere regret was made known to us by the yacht Dolphyn, which left DEL MYNA, on the 5th instant, anchored here before St Thomé on the 17th, the disaster to the ship Groningen, which has added still more to the misery that we see and suffer here at the Island. It is highly necessary that the ships depart; therefore I dispatch all the papers received from DE MYNA, in this form, because there is no time to copy them; and to help in getting the ships under sail. The skipper and mate we are also letting go, in order to be heard verbally.

I understand from the sub-factor, Elle Hammingh, that YHH do not intend to send Chief-factors. I do not know for what purpose this is being done, as I have previously advised

YHH that there is no one competent on the Coast to keep the books but Isaac Coeymans, and if he comes to die there is no one to replace him and the books and papers must "op den tuyn staeck hangen". If it is not YHH's intention to send any competent fellows I heartily desire to obtain my discharge, the sooner the better. -He therefore asks that what he has asked for may be sent as also as soon as possible another ship and goods and victuals to replace that lost.

I do not know what YHH's intentions are about the Coast and St Thomé, seeing the small number of soldiers who came by the Zeeland frigate; and now by the ship now lost, not more than 20 men. Some of the men who have served here 3 - 4 years over their stipulated time I have had to relieve whose comrades stoutly complain that they are being wronged and kept by force. By the Council on the Coast has been sent me a remittance of 280 Marks gold in the hopes that it can be remitted by these ships; half of which has been given each to the frigate Eendracht and St Pieter, as appears from the bill of lading. Herewith &c,  
YHH's afflicted servant.  
(sgd) J. van der Wel.

Original Letter from Isaac Coymans to Dir, Gen van der Wel, at St Thomé! (Elmina) 5 March 1647. (WIC.oc.11)

Honoured Valiant Wise Prudent Very  
Discreet Sirs.

Sir,

With great regret we have to report <sup>that</sup> a very heavy disaster occurred here on 28th February. After we saw a sail in the morning about 9 o'clock far out at sea, we found good that the Baas should proceed thither, which was done with all speed. I advised him to let no people come on shore if it was a new ship, in order to prevent all private trade, but that he should at once let me know the situation by his canoe. - About 11 o'clock I saw a shot fired, whereupon in all haste sent a canoe both to Mouré and Cra, in order to let the friends know of the arrival of the ship.

About 1 o'clock appeared Elle Hamming, by the Baas's canoe, who told me the ship was "Nieuw Groeningen", with a good coast cargo, provided with everything; which was satisfactory to us, little thinking of such an anxiety as the Allgiver has added to us. After I had had Caspar and Van Herd called to go on board with me, I saw the ship

*Square* / was almost in the roadstead, upon which I proceeded down below. Coming to the ~~Place~~ I heard them fire the usual signal. It was then called out to me that the ship was on fire. I went up, and there I saw to my great regret that the ship was on fire, which went to my heart. As I saw it was increasing I sent out some canoes for the crew and for such other service they could do. About 4 o'clock we saw the ship blow up; and the Baas was brought naked & for dead into the Castle, who had been injured in his limbs. Declared that a half French cartouc had burst and the flame beat downwards and presume that liquor was ~~ly~~ lying ~~about~~ not far from there; and at once such a fire ~~the~~ that it was not possible to quench; but the loss of some men could well have been prevented if some had not fled too soon with the boats but it appears the terror was great.

*welcome* / The skipper appeared also in the same state as the Baas, whom we have decided to let go by the yacht (it was nothing but a great punishment for it did not last an hour but it was all away). Now and then some sailors appear, all stark naked; in short many complaints for the Company, and through this loss we shall be ~~in~~ in extreme need especially of men. The soldiers sent by the Hon Gentn were 20, of whom 8 burnt. The Assistant ter Starpen has likewise perished ~~(as usual)~~ so that we are embarrassed for persons necessary for the service. We have thought good to let Elle Hamming go with the yacht Dolphyn so that he can give YH verbal advice of the whole situation ~~at home~~.

Volcraven we have kept here op dat Morrese Van Versterven soude ~~cunnen~~ gebruiken. The other Assistant come is fellow who is necessary to us as YH can guess as Jeronimus is ~~there~~ there alone and necessity requires that we should proceed to writing: which as yet, since YH's departure has made little beginning as I had fever and cough for 19 days; and trade also sometimes prevented as Jeronimus cannot speak with the negroes. Valcraven could have done service while the yacht lay in the river, but with the Fiscal at AXEM a long time and Reynier in a ~~seber~~ seber state lay long in a poor state at CRA before he died, I thought it good to send Volcraven thither. Concerning daily occurrences I shall, owing to shortness of time refer to the accompanying Journal (n.o.r.), but will only say that when the yacht Dolphin had come out of the river all the crew were in sick bay so that its progress has not been as it ought.

As regards any letters from the Lords and Masters they have been entirely lost as everything was still on board, except this accompanying ~~one~~ letter which Elle Hamming had in his pocket, and ~~one van the Fiscal and me which~~

The friends have taken excellent care for the supervision, and now everything lost and we have to expect no ship for 7-8 months. It is a sober matter and mostly for the Company, it seems that God Almighty punishes the Masters remarkably. The merchandise salvaged so far is according to the accompanying list, most of which was taken from the Blacks whom we had sent for the saving of the crew, which it seems drifted at the explosion. When the canoes came in again I went to the beach where I kept as close a supervision with soldiers as I could, and as some rascals remained out, they kept watch at night. According to the statement of the sentries the Cormantyn Blacks had concealed some sayes in their houses; I proceeded thither and occupied their dwellings but could not find any. I have placed the aforementioned Smit and Arjaen in the powder room. As soon as the yacht shall have departed I shall proceed with the matter to the best of my ability. In my opinion it would not be a bad thing if the rascals were forbidden the village as they are not worthy to ~~possess~~ occupy such places as they do no trade with the Company but seek to deceive it in every way.

We will ~~de~~ resort to all possible means to maintain the Company's goods according to oath and duty. The weakness and many cases of sickness among the men causes me no little embarrassment. To send relief to St Thomé from these men, who consist if 12 is not possible as we need them here. At Fort Nassouw they are very weak and have to keep watch all night. Here we have had to reduce the watch on the French Battery as only nine men had been sent.

We have thought good by this opportunity to send all such gold as we had on hand, consisting in Mk.280. The returns of the Haerlem remained in Brasil so that the Company is much in want of money, and at first we shall now be able to make no returns.

The sailors and soldiers who have appeared now and then, naked as they were born (fourteen were drowned), which has caused us to give them some money for the necessities of life. Most of the crew of the yacht Dolphyn are still lying sick.

Now that the Baas and the skipper have come to themselves again and we have learnt everything, I understand that some of the crew of the ship took to the boats too soon and the Baas and the skipper had nearly been burnt. The names of those <sup>who go</sup> to be employed as soldiers at the Island are in the Memorandum. Most of the men are going herewith whom YH can employ at the Island. Two carpenters and 5 sailors we

we have kept here as men are necessary to man the large boat which has to sail daily to the wreck to see if anything can be obtained. Cases or casks it is not possible to fetch. Sometimes a piece of saye or lywaet comes up so that the cases must all be broken. We have a watch kept on the wreck at night. We had the yawt Dolphyn come up as soon as the disaster occurred, and now, by its departure, the Chalopp. We have fished up three casks butter. The slaves and some Whites are at present keeping watch along the beach to obtain something. The ships large boat had stranded at the river.

As regards the trade it is still going badly. In the month of January we received Mk. 205, and now for February we shall not see so much. We sell little lywaet. The English continue at present at 135 a , who receive much gold according to the advice we hear both from Mr Hoogenhoeck and daily from the Blacks. We shall now bring the same to 4 engels as it goes hard and at first we have to expect no relief. On the 28th February, in the morning, the English ship departed and, as we have understood from various of the English who have passed, there is a ship for them in Serlyoens that might come any day now. We shall be able to do him little hindrance as are wings/<sup>now short.</sup><sub>clipped</sub>

The chaloup appeared from St Thomé on 25th January, where it had left 50 staves iron without however bringing a receipt here, which YH will have to require.

The (?) "Boeven" with lime has been burnt and some would have been sent but we have not been able to bring it together thro' shortness of time.

On 3rd Feby Albert Smient appeared here without coming to anchor on this Coast but departed to Calbarie, and as we then had no opportunity to catch him & as we afterwards heard he has no Commission he could well be found by one of our yachts.

Mr van Groeningen we have found good to keep here as Mr Andries is weak and to send one from Fort Nassou for the Island. We send herewith 5 of the men, and one who has broken his leg as you can see from the accompanying list.

Isaac Jasperse & the young Pieter Geerloffs both lie sick so that we need everything. Thro shortness of time we conclude and refer to the accompanying journal.

May God Almighty defend us further and let YHH appear again, in whose protection, after greetings we comend you & remain always  
YHH's faithful servant  
5 March 1647. (sgd) Isaac Coymans.

Original Letter from L.(?) Valckraven, (apparently) to the  
 XIX. WIC.. (WIC.oc.11) Elmina. 5th March 1647.

Honoured, Valiant, Wise, Prudent, Very  
 Discreet Sir(s).

Sir(s),

I cannot neglect by this opportunity to advise you of the sad misfortune that befell us on 28th February 1647. In the afternoon appeared here in the roads the ship Nieuw Groningen from Gevaren(?) sailed from that Chamber on 24th December, and after having fired the proper shots, with the last one a half-cartouw burst.; whereby at once such a fearful fire at once came that the crew could scarcely be saved, for of 70 persons only 50 escaped, who were brought ashore quite naked and nearly dead. So has the beautiful sunshine brought us to great misery, to the great damage & injury of the Company, and the versterking of our pastyt. It appears that the Lord God sijn eigen gans afwent ... ..

Sirs, we are here in a miserable state has the great mortality has continued for a long time, whereby we are so weakened that the factories cannot be occupied, of which some have had to be abandoned, which has already been made known to you. We are here all the more surprised that people are not sent to us in order to trade, as also proper cargoes. For our rivals (~~Gevaren~~) are hereby greatly strengthened, which goes to my heart, still we keep courage and have a quiet mind. There is not one on the Coast here but he has to take charge of 3 or 4 services although there are still some people, but through the inexperience of the language, we have to be everywhere present in dealing with the Blacks. I will shortly relate what service I have done. I lay for 21 months before CORMANTYN as sub-factor; 6 months as factor at CHAMA, and from there placed on the yacht Dolphyn as Factor in order to trade in the Bight and Arder, which I did; and having appeared again at del Myna I sought to be discharged, which, however, could not be done, as before related, so the Councillors have good to keep me again at del Myna (and to provide the yacht with a sub-factor) to take the office of bookkeeper and to help the Chief Factor. Also to examine all ships passing her by here, as Mr Fiscal is stationed at ACRA, and has more eyes on that than on his office; for he cannot serve both according to honour and duty. If a ship new ship comes before del Myna then is written to ACRA, and before he comes up, which lasts 5-6 days, there are many goods among the Blacks, to the great injury of the Company, which, as we, is in a sober state; about which I have written before, which surprises

me very much that I have received no answer to all my letters; therefore I do not intend to refer to it any more only I was compelled to let you know of the sad disaster and the need which will yet befall us in the bad time. For here there are no foodstuffs for the Country. The yachts which now come out of the Bight must remain lying by thro' lack of victuals. This yacht Dolphyn, which is going to-day to St Thomé (in order to deliver the letters to the ship Eendracht, and also to report to the General who is at the Island all that has happened) has taken all victuals from the Land with it, and is not to be victualled for longer than 14 weeks; whereby no yachts can be fitted-out. At St Thomé it is also so situated. In short, weakness everywhere.

YHH, I have many times written about the English, our rivals (partyen) here, so that als mij in de pen laet and the shortness of time, niet lijden mag of dese gelegenheit gelegenheyt te vermeynen. Night and day we have no rest, so take this short report in good part- from YHH's servant in good part, and I refer to the foregoing advice which may have gone over Holland, as I have understood with regret that the ship Zeeland has gelieven. May God Almighty ... guard the Hon Lords and Masters from all disasters and keep them in good health ...

At the Castle Del  
Myna 5 March  
1647.

YHH's humble  
servant, L(?) Valckraven.  
Ao 1647.

Also it has been found good to send down the gold in the factory by the yacht Dolphyn to St Thomé in order to be shipped there. From here 180 Mk. Moure (?) 140-150. Do not know what Mr Hoogenhouck will bring down.

Original Letter, HENDRICK CAARLOF (to the XIX)  
(WIC.oc.11). Mina 5th March 1647.

Hon<sup>d</sup>, Hon<sup>d</sup>. Worshipful, Wise Prudent, Very Discreet Sirs.  
Sirs,

Through<sup>z</sup> the arrival here on this Coast of Thileman Wilckens I was obliged to close my former, for hastening to the windward Coast I thought to find him still at CAPE APOEONTA in order to prevent his trade as much as possible; but caught him about 12 miles (mijlen) above Del Myna,

having a Flytt named the Young Prince of Denmark, 140 tons (last), 14 guns. 36 eaters, nearly all of them Waterlanders. Besides which he had a small boat to trade Rio Calbary, from where he said he would bring slaves over to the Caribische Islands. He showed me his Commission, written in high German and signed by the King of Denmark, in which he was given the title of citizen and inhabitant of the city of ~~Gluck~~- Luckstadt (sic, Gluckstadt); and as he had no Coast cargo he passed this Coast so far from the shore that no one had been on board him at Del Myna.

As also in the absence of the General and my absence from Del Myna, on the arrival of a new ship from home, the Company servants having their hands free could easily do their private trade, I had already proceeded to Axem, to attend to the new ships in order to prevent this; but the death of the sub-factor at CRAA made me return there, and as there is no one elsewhere on this Coast to spare, competent to "expedieren" this Factory, I ordered the factor at Axem, on the arrival of a new ship, to leave some goods in the hands of his "biggeson" in order to be able to accommodate the few traders in his absence, to proceed further by the same ship to Del Myna, and thence by canoe to CRAA, there to fill the sub-factor's place in my absence until I being having made due examination of the expected ship, each could return to his appointed place. assistant

Accordingly the said Factor on 2nd March came to relieve me at CRAA. But alas! the news that I heartily desired hoping to get joy from it was changed into great consternation and overwhelming sorrow. For that Factor reported to me that the ship Groeningen, having anchored on the last day of February before Del Myna, wished to fire 5 salute shots, as is customary, had caught fire from the last cannon, which had burst. Whereupon proceeding at once to Del Myna it was reported to me on arrival there that 4 cannon had already been fired, the fifth and last had burst throwing the shot into the Constable's (gunner's) room. The hatch (luyck) of the orlop (overloop) flew overboard; but the worst of all was that the blow (slag) took its chief force downwards, breaking the orlop in pieces which fell into the hold where it made a fearful fire. And as the bursting of one gun could not easily cause such a fire, in my opinion it arose because apparently (as the "maat" often conceal their liquor between the guns and gun carriages) some anchors of it had lain about there, had spouted into the gunner's room where the gun in breaking as also in the hold, where the gun (~~atuck~~) broke some large casks of liquor belonging to the Company lying thereabouts. The descending fire progressing so strongly caused the crew, through sheer amazement to get into perplexity. For such combustion new

dappere rappicheyt van dempen en loschen vereischende, some, to save their lives, went off by boat and "schuyt," whereby the others, seeing themselves past help through the fire getting the upper hand, each worked for his own life on een goet heen coomen sagen. Nevertheless, 11 seamen and eight soldiers perished in fire and water, which number would have been greater if the Factor Coymans had not quickly sent out some canoes for salvage. Neither letters nor papers from YHH or anyone were saved. In the blowing up of the ship some goods flew up and got into the hands of the Blacks, part of which has been taken from them, and some fished up by dredging, which we shall continue to do; amounting to what YHH can see from the accompanying lists. I also suspect that as the same cannon had already shortly before been fired a short distance from above Del Myna, as a signal that it came from home, it had then been overloaded through carelessness. And as the skipper is coming over personally, I refer further to his own report.

Since the departure of the General to St Thomé, about 12 English and French slavers have passed this Coast. Among others was a "dogboot" with 4 guns, on which the Captain was one Albert Smynt, having previously served the Company as skipper as he himself admitted; that although he had been chartered from Amsterdam to the West Indies he had nevertheless been obliged to run into the Serralions because of a leak, daaruit setten(?) sijn yacht was geborsten to the repair of which a certain Frenchman had helped him who rechartering (herhuurende) him and having provided him with some merchandise he had given him a copy of his commission in order to trade slaves for him in Rio Calbary & to bring them over to the West Indies. Altho' now this is his own confession, if true, could not make him free (besides which it appears to be untrue) it was reported by one Symon Mol of Amsterdam that he had helped him to repair, but notwithstanding the afsd Smient was certainly "onvrij". The afsd Mol also had a party of Neth. seamen but his Commission was French, had some Jewish merchants on board to whom the ship & goods belonged who also had a letter of reprisal on the Crown of Denmark which they showed. They were very anxious to attack the afsd Thyman Wilckens. And as we had no vessel ready to pursue the sd Smient, as the yacht Dolphyn by which this goes to St Thomé, lay in the river geheel haalt, I have advised the General at St T. of this not doubting he will have him waarnemen by the Bight traders at Cape Lopez. - They have decided in Council to send Mk 280 gold by Dolphyn to St Thomé. - / Herewith &c/ YHH's humble servant,  
(sgd) Hendrick CAARLOF.

Mina the 5th March 1647.

pp 165/6 L ]

[ For the Blacks already since then, seeking their greatest profit, regardless of honour, it was several times determined by those of Futun to cut you on both sides with their knife, by drawing the English into Cabo Cors, which had to be arranged with a large present, so that it was held by them on a definite tribute. When they took the matter in hand the people of Futun were at war in their rear. But it was renewed a second time with the English by the Master [°] of the aforesaid ~~Eng~~ Futun, named Himnequa, he pretending that we had no merchandise on hand, whereas his chief idea was to get a good sum out of the Co's purse, which in these bad times could not succeed. In default of this the Blacks erected a Lodge at Cabo Cors for the English who meantime had a yacht trading before that port, as they had done several times previously. The General sent me orders to protest to the English about the matter, but as I understood that Factor Middleton (who represents their Chief) would himself appear at de Mina, I left it to be discussed verbally by the General, when that Factor made the excuse that he had been called by the Futun Blacks. He had no defence when he was told that we should act in the same manner at Amernabo, near Cormantyn. But as they did not hear of any particular Accanist traders there [Cabo Cors] (seeing that we then surpassed them in merchandise which is always there in the largest store houses) they did not afterwards take the matter in hand, & left there entirely. But at the end of May, receiving a new ship, they took the matter to heart, & supplied the Lodge with some cargoes, intending to send their yacht which had lain there to the Berrin river to fetch away the return cargo from their "leager" ].

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"Copie" Letter from Hendrick CAARLOF to the XIX. (WIC)  
(WIC.oc.11) Atchyn 3rd July 1647.

Hon, Hond, Wise, Prudent, Very Discreet Sirs,  
Sirs,

My last were by the ships Vere, Regenboge, Eendracht of Zeeland & St Pieter of Rotterdam, all which I hope will have arrived home safely as well as, on the contrary, to learn the sad news of the severe loss of the ship Groeningen, of which we have made not a little the bitter fruits, and still daily must try them, seeing that this disaster serves the English as glorious stuff for their glorious advancement of their actions against the Company.

[ For the Blacks already since then, seeking their <sup>most</sup> profit without any regard to honour, is bij die van FUTUN meermaels onderlegt haer mes aan beyde de sijden U te doen snyden mits de Engelsen aan CABO CORS te trecken dat steeds met een goede schenkagie moeten afgemaakt worden, sulcks het bij haar als een gewisse tribuyt gehouden, wanneer sij de saeck ter hant genomen ende dewijl die van FUTYN in seker oorloge wat ten achteren geraeckt zijn, is by den meeste (sic meester?) van de voorn. FUTUYSCH, BINNEQUA, genaemt, het welke met de Engelse andernael hervat, voorgevende bij ons geen gerief van Koopmanschappen te hebben, daer nochtans sijn meeste insicht om de Compe een goede somme uit de beurse te kloppen, 'twelck bij dese sobere tyden soo niet mach vlotten, hebben de

Swarten, bij manquement van dien een Logie voor de Engelse aan CABO CORS gericht, alwelcke ondertusschen met een yacht voor die poort liggende te handelen gelijk voor desen meermaels gedden.gedaen.

The General sent me thither to make protest to the English om dies vals, but as understood that the Factor Middleton (who represents their Opperhoofd) would himself appear at de Mina, I left-it-to let it rest at the General's verbal discussion, when the same Factor excused himself that he had been called by the FUTUSCHE Blacks, gaf hem met een weerloos, soo wanneer wij tot ANNEWABO, bij CORMANTEN in gelijke forme daer souden, Doch dewyl sij geene bijzondere ACCANISTEN kooplieden aldaer vernamen (gemerckt wij hun als doen in koopmanschappen overtroffen en sich die selve steete steets in de grootste wyndel laten vinden) gelieten sich naderhant geen handt aen dat werk te slaen, maer 'Teenemael daer uit te scheyden. But at the end of May, receiving no

new ship, berhertigden de saeck & versagen de Logie met eenige Cargasoenen, zynde van meeninge om haar yacht, voor desen aldaer gelegen, nae Rio de Benyn te zenden om het retour van haren legger aftehalen.]

[The English

first set foot at Cape Coast in 1647]

about which a declaration was made to the Governor by the merchants whom the English had sent to him [King] that what he ]

It is now reported to us for certain that by the afnmd English a coarse and schrikelijck work has been presumed upon that they have requested the King of SABBOU to afloopen hen <sup>plunder</sup> the Fort and to sell to them the Fort Nassau at Mouré, as it is provided with a sober garrison (gelijk <sup>as hier also</sup> alhier alins). To that end the King, in ofer to spy out the situation, has twice been by night from SABBOU to Mouré, [die ook naderhand dies vals ronde verklaringe aan de Heer General gedaen hem seker molaet genoemt (sic) die dier arsake by de Engelsen aan hem gesonden, but that he] never more would resolve to carry out the matter but continually continue in friendship with us, recommending us to reinforce that Fort with a larger garrison, ~~dat hoewel gedaen maar van andere plaatsen te lichten gaet ons van 's herten bloet mite overal needis van doen. which, although done, but only by taking them from other places~~

is not letting the truth from whom we must in demerits ourselves, which we can offer by making the lodge at Annamabo

Ik hadde wel voerslagen voorgelagen om de Engelsen soo <sup>had proposed to protest to the English both about this & the making of the said lodge</sup> hierover ~~to the making of the aforesaid lodge~~ protestatie te doen, but, as they say, the SABBOU King, <sup>de waerheit?</sup> ~~de waerheit?~~ <sup>[at Cape Coast]</sup> sprac, and the FUTUNS had called them to CABO CORS, <sup>for</sup> wien wij ons mogen verhalen; It welck bij gelegentheit van makinge der Logie tot ANNAMABO ook kunnen inbrengen. Welcke protestatie ons anders indien sij tot CABO CORS (bij goede stabilering der Comps negotie) dissolveerden, tot ANEMABO een beletsel soude kunnen geven. Soo is bij ons voor best geoordeelt een generaal attestatie te beleggen ende die neffens de voors Molaet bij haer gebreyckt YHH toe te senden per the first possible opportunity and the Molaet sal sijn te bekomen.

which they do more or more

As long as the Fort at ATCHYN has been under <sup>authority</sup> gebied of the Company, the Blacks there keep to them selves the QUAQUA trade, in which most of the trade of that factory consists, themselves fetching the cloths from that Coast, ~~waer in sij hoe langer hoe meerder toegecomen~~, so that at last the Compe is sitting profitless entirely without receipts.

And as these inhabitants, according to the conditions of the Agreement made with them at the capture, being vassals of the Company, like as they had previously been of the Portuguese, who (kept) that trade to themselves, and did not at all

leave it free to the inhabitants, the General therefore wished that they should pay a toll of 5 stuyvers for each cloth, in which they not only remained in default, but wished never more to appear within the Fort, according to old custom; establishing their own magistracy (magistraat) and when it seemed good to them, forbade foodstuffs to be sold to our men, with many other ~~exorbitantien meer die haer dertele moetwil hun aenriet.~~ When, now, the General arrived at that place from St Thomé he had the Caboceros summoned to come to him in the Fort in order to speak with them about dies vals, to which they would not <sup>do</sup> ~~agree~~ (verstaen) notwithstanding the sufficient promises that no evil would be done to them; whereby HH, ~~repenet~~ after 3 days patience, set fire to their village. <sup>over</sup> Over sulks sij haer woonplaatse in't bos genomen latende sich vorenstaen mits 't Fort maar 6 man beset was, 'tselve wilden stormden handt veroveren; therefore it was reinforced with 12 others more. Meantime they cast their eyes upon the goods of Tyman(?) the Molaten Tymon(?) Latimer, plundered him of everything and illtreated him very shamefully. And although the General several times offered them peace, they nevertheless in view of our small force, remained obstinate <sup>but</sup> do not doubt that they will in time vernieuwet en tot behoerlijke gehoorzaamheit van de Compe werden herstelt, whereby upon condition that the QUAQUA trade may remain entirely to the Company, whereby the expenses of this place will then be able to be gestueret(?).

Through the coming of the Factor van Groeningen we have got opportunity to supply the Factory of CRAA, seeing that the same is in a very good state, as also the King there has forbidden his subjects to trade with any Englishmen lying there before the port. And as ATCHYN is the first place of the Gold Coast where the ships appear, it has therefore been found good, as suitable to my Charge, as also for carrying out the matters with the rebellious Blacks, for me henceforth to ~~stay~~ stay there, and to bring into train what is most servicable for the Company. Wherefore YHH will please to give express orders to the coming ships to put into the roads of ATCHYN, so that I can go down with the same. Further I refer to the letter from the General. (Note. None for July on record). Herewith &c  
Your obedient servant  
(sgd) Hendrick CAARLOF.

Actum Atchyn, the 3 July 1647.

- ① [ Because of this, having gone to live in the bush, they threatened to take the fort by storm as it was only garrisoned only by 6 men. It was therefore reinforced with 12 more men. ]
- ② [ but I do not doubt that, in time, they will amend & be restored to due obedience to the Co, whereby the expenses of this place will then be met ]

Instruction according to which Chief  
Factor Isack Coymans will have to act.  
(Copy in WIC.oc.11) 9 July 1647.

1.

From here you will travel by canoe to ANNEMABO and over  
land to CORMANTYN and further to FANTYN, in order there to  
speak with the BRAFFO and Caboseros in manner as follows:

2.

Having greeted the Braffo and Caboseros in my name,  
~~verelijst UE begin van Reden bij de hand te nemen~~, that a  
more than a year ago now the Braffo sent his deputies to us  
for the first time after we had abandoned the port CORMAN-  
TYN with the request that on my assumption of the government  
they sought to mediate the displeasure we might have taken  
against him, as Mr Ruyghaver had had the Company's ship or  
yacht taken away from there; with the offer that if we would  
establish a Lodge either at CORMANTYN or ANNEMABO, that he  
gave us full consent thereto. This request and offer was  
not made on one occasion but several times [waar voor hem  
hadden te bedancken te meer om dat zijn behulp en voortganck  
soo midelick presenteerde sonder eenige costen te lyden.]

3.

You should remind ~~(vernieuwen)~~ the Braffo and Caboseros  
for what reason we have so long abandoned the port CORMAN-  
TYN namely, because we saw that we must continually keep  
a costly ship or yacht there and were shut out from the  
receipt of gold because the English whenever any ~~genoege~~ (?)  
traders came on board our vessel and had bought goods, these  
were panyarred by the slaves of the English and declared  
forfeited, because they had been on board our vessel to  
trade; which indeed was contrary to all right and reason  
as the BRAFFO had entered into alliance not only with the  
English but, long before, with the Company; and although  
we had many times complained about it to the Braffo, the  
English were never properly forbidden to do this. For  
this reason and other reasons our vessel was removed from  
there because we had to incur great expense and the rivals  
(party) got ~~(glinck den act)~~ the gold.

4.

Which previously committed abuses (you can say) we will  
gladly forget if proper redress is done therein, and rely  
upon the Braffo ~~sign~~ accepting again his elder wife ~~and~~  
~~captemesia wat date rusten~~ (?) ~~om soo veel vriedomme toe~~  
~~te schryven.~~

5.

In case the Braffo and Caboseros promise that they will arrange according to this, you must put before them that we are disposed to make a Lodge at Annemabo, with so much space (plaats) around it (~~als wij dan een Heyningh (?)~~ *that we shall them* *have an enclosure.*) ~~swillen beseypen~~, but the house of the merchandise not made in the manner of the Blacks, but of stone, in form as at CRAA, or as we shall think best, in order to be free from fire.

6.

But we will not incur any other expenses than what the Braffo has previously received on the coming of new ships, which amounts to about 1 mark gold both for FANTYN CORMANTYN ACONISTEN ANNAMABO Caboseros; and they will have to demand only 2 engels monthly for the Captain.

7.

It will easily appear to you that the Braffo and Caboseros will ask for special presents for the consent to the making of the Lodge, in which you will go no further than to present to the Braffo and the Caboceros, each with one benda gold, with further promises that when the Lodge is completed the Company will present the Braffo and Caboseros, each with 3 bendas gold; and besides the aforesaid, 12 anchors liquor to him now.

8.

If they take pleasure in the proposed conditions, and promise that they will maintain the same, then must the King (sic) as quickly as possible take care that a suitable house is arranged where the tools of the masons, carpenters and the slaves can be housed as we are disposed to proceed with the work so that they may receive a parcel of goods with the arrival of the first new ship, and if it is not ready the Braffo will have to miss them at first.

9.

The Braffo shall take good care that our intention is not stopped, [either that the English "partyecken" "particquen" might aanleggen met giften om te coopen en alsoo uit het werck souden moeten scheyden] and if occasion be given us thereto then we shall willingly depart, and then they will have to consider well that neither I nor my successors will ever be seen again in the CORMANTYN country.

[by the English offering presents or bribes to get the work stopped.]

10.

If the former points are promised to be fulfilled, then it remains to admonish the Braffo that a person on his behalf may continually remain at ANNEMABO until the work



at, and if time allows, all merchandise to be taken off from there, the greater part of which consists in Lywaet, and carefully to examine Jan Gelendouck's remainder, that it agrees with his last return.

15.

We know that this instruction cannot be strictly followed in everything, but hope for the best journey, and make due report.

Your friend,  
 Ady 9th July 1647. (sgd) Jacob van der Wel.  
 at the Castle del Myna.

(copy)

Report made to General Jacob van der Wel regarding my experiences both at FANTYN and CORMANTYN.

After I had received YH's instructions I proceeded to ANNEMABO, from where I arrived at CORMANTYN on the 10th instant in the morning. I put before the ACONISIEN and inhabitants there that I had been sent by YH in order to learn in what manner they would be willing to enter into an Agreement with the Company for the making of a Lodge. Hereupon a meeting was held by them at which I appeared. They told me it was satisfactory to them that the General wished to enter into an "alliance" with them, and tomorrow the ACONISTEN would go along with me to FANTYN in order to speak further with the BRAEFO. Meantime appeared the Chief (Oppehoofd) of the English who had the Caboseros and ACONISTS asked what their meaning was to conclude with us. They replied that the Braffo had had us (deselve) called, and now (we) appeared in order to make a Lodge in their country. Hereupon the English proceeded to FANTYN.

On the 11th in the morning, I departed, along with all the ACONISTS and some principal men of CORMANTYN, to the Braffo, where we arrived about towards midday. Having greeted him he excused himself that the day had advanced too far to speak with each other, but that tomorrow early at day break we should take the matter in hand. Meantime I understood that the Factor of the English was seeking, with presents, to hinder the Braffo's intention. Having greeted the Caboceros and principal inhabitants, presents of foodstuffs were received from them according to the custom of the country. They appear to be greatly disposed to draw their old profits from the Company.

On the 12th at daybreak we, together with the all the ACONISTIS appeared before the Braffo where he was seated with his Caboseros. Having greeted each other, he said he would not make a beginning with me before the English had also appeared, as he said he had heard from them that he had sold his country to them; and so that we might be assured that he did not wish to deal with us in any false manner, he would let the English come and ask them how much they had given for the country. Meantime stelden

*represented* <sup>hij he proposed to the Captain of the Aconists or other persons present</sup>  
 hij den Capiteyn der ACONISTEN als andere present wesende <sup>but that they were all disposed to take that the fraudulence of trade were</sup>  
 dat he did not desire that they should accuse each other before the English <sup>taken in hand without having received presents.</sup>  
 personen voor dat hij niet begeerde dan een den andere bij de Engelse souden beschuldige maar hun aller genegentheytt was sonder nochtans giften genooten te hebben in allen tot

vordering van de negotie bij de hant is genomen. Upon this the others swore an oath. Mr Middleton and the preacher of the English having appeared, the Braffo asked whether <sup>as they said</sup> they had bought his country [gelijk van hun gaven(?)], which he said had never been taken in hand in his days, but indeed allowed them a place of trade in <sup>the same</sup>; and that already before the coming of the English he had traded with our nation, and so, indeed, had received presents from Mr Nicolaas van Iperen and Tymen Wolsgraeffe; and he would not hear that he has ceded (~~opgedragen~~) his country to one nation, [maar soo noch eenige verscheyden plaats sal geven:] and if the English had anything against it, they might well depart; and that he would not allow them to prevent us from making a Fort or Lodge. Mr Middleton, seeing he could not obtain anything here, <sup>but if any still appeared he would give them a place</sup> represented to me that now he would do his best (~~devoer~~) to <sup>obtain</sup> ~~obtain~~ a place everywhere where the Company has its trade (Marginal note, against the underlined portion: "notandum"). I replied to him shortly that it was not worth disputing with him about it here, but that the General knew quite well how far he had to go herein; and that he had now heard quite well how far the country of FANTYN had been ceded (~~opgedragen~~) to the English Crown. Hereupon we parted separated, and I afterwards proceeded to the BRAFFO in order to put before him what the General's intention was.

I have, in accordance with YH's instructioes, represented to the Braffo and Caboseros that it is now some considerable time ago that the port of CORMANTYN was abandoned by Mr Buychaver, which had been with no other view than that we saw that when the traders had come on board our vessel to

buy goods, the same were panyarred by the English and the Braffo's people, which was beyond all right and reason, that this must not be done now, as long years before the coming of the English, they had traded with our nation; and so, it was well disposed to grant us a place at ANNEABO, <sup>successor is desired,</sup> <sup>preferably on the hill at Cormantyn where it could be high, low or inland as the General pleased.</sup> ~~with~~ out the Company having to incur extreme expense, the same will be taken in hand.

The Braffo said that he was willing to give the Company a place <sup>in</sup> daar sij hetwelve sullen begrijpen, liever op den berg tot Cormantyn als verder, alwaar sij sullen mogen timmeren hoog leeg (berg?) en wijt naar d'Heer Generals sijn believen. He very earnestly requested that it might be taken in hand at once ~~so~~ so that they might not be ~~geschoven~~ <sup>pushed</sup> ~~van~~ <sup>by</sup> the English. I replied to him that there is no opportunity (gelegenheit) on the hill at CORMANTYN, and it is not customary with Christian Potentates that the guns of the one come under those of the other.

The ACONISTS and inhabitants at CORMANTYN very earnestly requested that it might not be at ANNEABO, as it was much too far from them to please them. They say a village lies between both, which is named AYA, which has a much more convenient port than Cormantyn, and when they cannot embark from there, they go thither. I have been to inspect the same, and in my opinion it can be satisfactory, and will be very pleasing to the inhabitants. Various ACONISTS say they will take up their residence there, especially TAMS and ANIM. Aja

I have put before the Braffo of FANTYN and ACONISTS and CORMANTYN Caboceros that the intention of the General is not to give many special presents, but only 6 bendas of gold to the Braffo and his Caboseros when the lodge shall be completed, and then, on the arrival of the new ships, receive such ~~dies~~ <sup>pieces</sup> (echt) ~~as~~ as was done formerly.

We have given the Braffo and Caboseros the 2 bendas gold notwithstanding we having not been able to go ~~eeer~~ entirely according to instruction, but ~~doe~~ everything as cheaply (civil) as practicable for the Company's profit, and properly took leave of the people. I have not thought particularly of the ACONIST, TAMS, which will serve in the future if he appears to be well disposed to the Company.

The Almighty God grant that the Company may flourish, in whose protection I commend you, and remain,

The 16 July. YH's obedient servant,  
(sgd) Isaac Coymans.

(The first of the following is the first of the following)

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Main body of handwritten text, consisting of approximately 25 lines of dense, cursive script. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and the cursive style.

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By summons from the General Jacob

van den Ghele, the undersigned members of the Company having assembled,

Since the English have taken upon themselves to erect between the two fortifications of Castle MINA and Fort NASBOU, to

erect their Lodge at CABO COORS, beside that of the Company, representing that they have been called there by the RULY King and his inhabitants, whereby they have prejudiced the

Company's privilege (preference) and also violated their own claim (pretention) to CABO FANTYN, we resolved, at the

long entreaty of the BRAFFO of FANTYN as well as his adherents, to erect a Lodge at ABUJA (in recompense for

CABO COORS), and after the same has been finished the service of the Company requires that it be provided with a

suitable Chief Factor and we have considered the capability of Huybrecht Volckraven serviceable thereto, we have

hereby appointed the same as Chief Factor of ABUJA, at a salary of 54 gulden per month when being provided with

merchandise, he shall begin to trade there.

And as an Assistant is also necessary at AXEM, we have appointed Pieter Groenwout as such, to be present with

all which we have found thus to be proper for the best service of the Company, have done and approved at the

meeting of the General and Councilors at the Castle MINA the 17th 28th September 1647.

(sgd) J. A. van der Wel, H. Charloff, Isaac Coymans,

J. van Hogenhoek; Harbert Claessen Groenwout;

Anthony de Beer

alongside

Aja

(Copy) Letter from Hendrick CAARLOF, Fiscal, to the XIX.  
Casteel del Myna. 26 September 1647.  
(WIC.oc.11)

(This letter is not marked as a copy, but the handwriting differs from that of the letter of 5th March 1647, which is clearly an original because of the broken seal.)

Honourable, Honoured, Worshipful,  
Wise, Prudent, Very Discreet Sirs,

Sirs. With the approval of the General and Council, I stayed for some time at AXEM in order to bring the Blacks, who (~~through~~ at the ~~instigation~~ instigation of the English) were making themselves very rebellious against us, again to the devotion of the Company; and as, through the distance away, as the occasion of the disputes which had already burst out into full war, I was badly situated to be able to send letters to del Myna, I had already despatched my previous of the 3rd July last by ~~this~~ this ship "tHuys van Nassauw", seeing that I did not know better than that the same would then sail to St Thomé and from there at once hasten home with a sugar freight.

But since the English, at the desire of the FUTU King and his subjects, at CABO-CORS, had established their Lodge at CABO CORS, beside ours, we resolved, in recompense thereof, at the entreaties for long years of the Braffo of FANTYN, also to erect a Lodge at ARIJA (a half mile from CORMANTYN in a large district (grootte quartier) of the English); the General had therefore detained the afore-named ship till 27 August in order to bring the necessary timber thither, when she sailed from here to the afore-named Island with orders to verbeyden the previous letters to YHH. Now, because of the visit of the ship 'tHoff van Zeelandt, despatched to AXEM, is again about to depart, I have kept this back in order that it may be posted a second time by the yacht Visscher de Visscher (which is destined to go thither).

That the Lodge at ARIJA aforementioned (which is already as good as completed) has been established, the Company will profit not a little, for although formerly a "legger" ship lay there before the port, not only did the costs run high, but also the traders mostly avoided the canoe hire (loon) and the danger ~~and~~ sickness (?) of the sea, as it happened that they often lost their goods in the water, and sometimes were not able to get on board once for a period of 14 days; about which they, for a trifle,

preferred to go to the English than to undergo the aforementioned; which inconveniences have hereby been remedied. Now therefore we can bravely spy out the English and, by continually prying into their state, all the better regulate ourselves in the market (mart). The ACONISTS have also arranged (perfecte reductie gemaect) that at CORMANTYN one half of the gold shall be spent with the Company and the other half with the English. Over this there appears a good opportunity of causing distress to the English if we do not lack merchandise too much (which has been the case for some time past).

Over the making of this Lodge the English have verbally protested to us but, "gaven sich seer los" [since, the General being at CORMANTYN, the ACONISTS themselves gave them to understand that we had been for a long time requested to come there, as well as they had been to CABO CORS.

They have also ["veele weers gedaen bij"] the BRAFFO at FANTYN ~~(note, add over description "Fantyn" which was its crossed out and "Baffo" substituted, but Fantyn is already correct)~~ to stop us, and as they saw his inclination towards us and had no help from him, the Factor Middelton, in the presence of our Factor Coymans artfully gave the Braffo to understand that in the matter (~~deels~~) of trade he had sold his country to them, who thereupon very shortly stated that he had only granted them the liberty within the compass (~~omhoofde~~) of their Lodge without having sold his country to anyone whomsoever; and that if they stepped outside the track of the defined liberty he would then make them a head shorter (een hoofd orter soude maecken). Notwithstanding this they raised 24 armed men who were already on the way to destroy the work we had done, but they were fetched back again by their preacher; and if they had attacked anything they would evidently have paid for it with their lives, as the Blacks were already in arms over what they sought to do. They have frequently placed themselves in similar peril by firing into CORMANTYN village, ~~but we have not been able to do anything to prevent them from doing so.~~

Now they see what profit they have made with CABO CORS,

Want die van FUTUY van haere welcompste der nieuwe scheepen als andere proffitten versteecken synde, comen ons met force for the people of Futuy, being deprived of their dues on new ships, come

~~the English Factor in great numbers to us in Castle Myna to compel them by force -~~  
 in't Casteel MYNA met (niet?) bedwingen gelijk den BRAFFO  
 like the Braffo of FANTYN, who, having them in his power, imposes his  
 van FANTYN haer in zijn gewelt hebbende, hun de regalemate van  
 will upon them which they have to comply with. So it appears that  
 sijw- sijn wille voorschrijf dat sij dan achtervolgen  
 after the lapse of the half year, [?] the Futur King, in order to get  
 moten. Soo stont dan wel affteemeten dat naer verloop  
 his presents again & the his FANTYNsche inhahitants the Myna market,  
 van den Helften ijver de Fuytsche (also) Conninck om sijne  
 asks that we should do this ourselves - & they ask for it daily. We offer  
 geschenken als sijne Inwoonders om de Mynse markt weder te  
 them our friendship as soon as they have cleared the English out  
 krijgen ons selfs souden aensoucken, gelijk se daagelijcx  
 of Cabo Cors, for which they have already placed hostages in our  
 doende. Wij haer onse vruntschap presentieren, soo haast  
 hands, & no dutch will carry it out soon.  
 sij de Engelsche van CABO CORS weder sullen wech geruynt

hebben, daarop sij ons alreets goede ostagiens in handen  
 gestelt; en is ongetwijfelt off sullen 'tselve eerst daags  
 in't werk stellen. ~~te weten dat hij sijn d'oneer all' de andere~~

~~actie oec te doen in de zwaeren middel en oec te doen (D) oec te~~

~~and the King to be taken in a hand and not? (When I did not do for the King?)~~

The English Factor Middleton, being now their Chief, came a year ago as sub-factor on this Coast, and as then a Factor Leveson departed and another Charles Lestervan came, he got to be Factor, and wishing to further his masters' service, he undertook the work at CABO CORS, and now he observes his mistake, he is seeking more than ever before at all places such as ATCHYN, CHAMA, FUTUY, MOURE, and elsewhere, aenteporren om te beweegen the Blacks tot schankagies en tegen ons aentespannen, ~~like~~ as already related in my last of 3rd July. Yes he makes strong entreaties to have a Lodge at ACCRAA, notwithstanding four [geschut de port van die Haven beschiet (7)]; but the King declared that he would never break the alliance (verbond) with the Company (renewed with me when I was there as Factor).

[Common  
 Command  
 that port]

Big / Over this I am confident the young master, Middleton, will send a ~~grave~~ <sup>grave</sup> account of expenses home to his masters, and then we shall have to bear the blame; but, nevertheless, we have never gone but on the defensive.

== We would indeed, as related in mine of the 3rd July, have

laid over a general attestation against all the abuses of the English; but as no Blacks can write, nor are any persons to be got, the General's and this must answer the purpose (~~verstrecken daervoor~~).

With the assistance of the English, the Blacks at AXEM have made much work for me, and would not have come to an arrangement unless, I, observing their rescalities, had drawn on our side a certain inland nation named ENCASSER, who got them to come to an agreement; nevertheless, they would not quit the QUAQUA trade; "gelaet toonende off" they would haer bestecken in the bush (bosch), as for fear of being captured they would have retreated further inland into the bush, unless the aforementioned ENCASSERS had not remained with three (sic) to drive them out of the bush to the beach; and as they were surrounded (beset) by enemies on the land side and on the beach, they consented to an Accord, by which it was stipulated for the Company that they should now as vassals and now faithful subjects shall place themselves under the jurisdiction and authority (gebiet) of the Fort; and that the QUAQUA trade shall now entirely remain with to the Company without them trading thither with their canoes. Alone are they at liberty, when the QUAQUAS come down in February, then, like other free Blacks, to be allowed to buy some cloths for their own behoof. Upon which four good hostages were received both from the ENCASSERS and the ACHYNSES; so that I do not doubt that the expenses which have thus long fallen without profit for the Company, will thereby be able to be "gestuwet" (?).

On the 2nd August arrived here on the Coast, under French flag, a certain Fluyt, named Fortuyn, 70 lasten, 10-11 eaters, and laden with Coast cargo, the skipper of which was Jan Maertensen van of Oldersum, and as she had, many among others, some Waterlanders on board, we guessed not otherwise than that she had been equipped hither by Holland shippers; and as she lay trading before CABO CORS we went thither by the yacht Dolphyn, that was destined to Angola to bring thither, by way of St Thomé, the remaining goods out of 'thuys van Nassau, to examine this ship en passant, whether indeed his Commission, written in French, showed it had been signed by the His Majesty himself, as a citizen, and the "Sea Pass" granted to him from the City of Dunkirk, in order to be allowed to trade on this Coast. So we examined his chest (kist) also, but found nothing else than a Certificate in which all his seamen named had appeared before the Magistrate at Dunkirk and declared they were willing to sail hither with the said Jan Martensen; also of his recipisse van de recherche dat (sic) that his merchandise

had been inladen at Amsterdam. Also saw his traded gold consisting in about 115 Marks, among which 25 Marks in rings of which there was as much silver as gold. He had also a good quantity of elephants' tusks. All which, being reported to the General, he judged we could make no claim to him.

The ship 't Hooft van Zeeland arrived safely on the 6th September before AXEM, and after peace had been entered into with the Blacks, as stated before, (we) set sail from there and came on the 11th ditto before Del Myna. I have in examining it done my duty in such a way as could be required, but found nothing else than what had already been caught by the Directors in Zeeland; and assure YHH that there was ~~nothing~~ nothing private in the same. We had certainly wished that there had been somewhat more cargo, since in 14 days time we already had to sit bare and profitless.

[ I have several times remonstrated to the General and also to YHH that the Portuguese Governor, Laureyns Pires, coming from Portugal to St Thomé 5 years ago, stelde the same Island in revolt, and it was said that he had made promises to restore it under the Crown of Portugal, gelijk het ook de Compe met schaafe smaecte, dan coste het doennaels niet uitvoeren, dewijl dat het Eyland mettet secours van de Commandant Mulder ten deele aan de Compe wierde verseeckert. Doch quaemen met de Portuguesen tot accoord, by welcke conditien dierselve 't geheele Landt met de groote Schants, die de onse niet en coste vermeesteren, voor haer bedongen. Nu, alsoo daer over naer sommiger meeninge in disgratie van den Conninck geraeckte gemaect hij 't contract met den Conninck gemaect niet coste voldoen, leyde het over den anderen bouch, souckende de gunste van de Compe te krijgen, te dien eijnde als Capn Wilschut uyt de Maranhou daer aan 't Eylandt was gearriveert, dede Pires door Joseph Martijn aen den Commandant Mulder weeten dat hij hem (om de Inwooders te blind doecken) soude laeten aensseggen bij soo verre sij haere gemelte Schans niet demolieerden off overgeven dat dan een vloot in Guinea claer leggende, daer hij, Wilschut, was af gesonden, haer wederom soude comen beoorlogen. Dit doende, verseeckerde hij Mulder, eene goede uytcompste, want niettegenstaende der Inwooders groote presentatien van een somme te willen furneeren tot continuatie des oorlogs, verliet 't selve fort danckende de soldaten af. Soo mede heeft sich eerlijck getoont in't aendienien van den Lorrendraijer, sijnde een Fluyt, St Laureyns genaemt, en hoewel te vertrouwen hij 't selve uyt groote valsheyt doet, om ons in't slaep te wiegen en sijn kans daerdoor te beter waer cunnende nemen, mits hij genouch

St Thomé

genouchsaem in sijn eer soude herstelt sijn wanneer hij 't Fort overrompelen cost, soo was ten aensien den tegenwoordigen staet van Brazil, seer dienstich voor de Compewij mede dien wegh opstreedem, en hem, Pires, een vrundelijck gelaet toonden van hem alle gunste te bewijsen, ter tijt de gelegentheynt anders daerin te versien sal present-eeren; want hij nu de penningen voor synne suijckeren hem van de Hr Blauwenhaen competeerende niet en geniet, sijn wij niet sonder surgen(sic) dat hij wel met de Majoor Jan Carvalije, die seer tegens de Compew ingenomen mochte aenspannen, dat dan lichtelijck soude cunnen baren de negotie in oorloge veranderde, om U Ed schepen sonder suyckeren leedich thuys crijgen. En aengesien de Compew aen dit Eylandt soo grootelijcx geleege dat op sijne Pillaren dese geheele cust stunt, mits bij verlies van dien de Engelschen, die vaert gewinnende, ons daeruit soudem cladden, soo brought ooc 't selve soo extraordinaris schoone proffit, gelijk U Edle dan uyt de rekeningen cunnen sien, dat de ingehandelde suyckeren omtrent 25V f. over de 30V ponden vlaems bedraegen; versouck derhalven ten dienste van U Edle ootmoedich, U Edle gelievende op des Heeren Generaels missive te letten er(?) 'tgeene dienstich te considereeren, op dat U Edle in allen deelen voor soo een ongeluck als 't verlies van dit Eylandt soude wesen, mogen behoet blijen, en, was mijn bedenckens noodich, U Edle dien Pires met meerder somme van Contanten voor synne suyckeren geliefden te beneficeeren als andere particuliere.

On the Pmo May the boat of Albert Sniemt, previously written about to YHH, was brought to the Island by the yacht Jannabo, which found him drifting helplessly at sea; as also on the 2nd July a Fluyt, named Eendracht, also seized. What goods were found therein has never been told me, but I refer to the letter from the Factor there.

But I understand with regret that if the Commandant had not again provided the Fluyt St Laurens (sailed from with Commission from Holland) with a ration of sugar for their boat, it would apparently have fallen into the Company's hands, or at least would have had to depart home fruitlessly but as I do not know its real character, I refer to the letter from the General.

I have continued for about 10 years in YHH's service, of which 2 at St Thomé, and now 3½ on this Coast, and have continually so done my duty that I do not doubt that the fame of it will have partly been blown to YHH. Among others, I have not only served in the Chief Factor's place as well as the Fiscalship without any rise (verbetering) as desiring YHH's good favour, but also brought the "ontneijde" Factories ACRAA and AXEM to profitable recovery; and as the General, through manifold sickness and annoyances

is urgent for his discharge, I therefore respectfully request YHH to be pleased to consider me favourably on that occurrence, and I shall, on that occasion, hold myself bound for a further period of 4 years.

- As the General is reporting everything in detail, I have thought it unnecessary to lengthen this, and for brevity refer to his, Herewith,

Honble, Hond, &c  
YHHs' obedient servant,  
(sgd) Hendrick Caarlof.  
Fiscal.

Castle del Myna, 26 7ber 1647.

Original Letter, Dir. Gen. J.A. van der WEL, to the XIX. WIC.  
(WIC.oc.ll.) Castle del Myna, 17 October 1647.

Honble, Hond, Most Worshipful, Wise,  
Prudent, Very Discreet Sirs,

Honourable Sirs,

The four ships namely, der Veer, the frigate Eendracht, Regenboge, from the Chamber Zeeland, and St Peter of Rotterdam, we dispatched from St Thomé on the 18th March last with such return cargoes as YHH can perceive from the copy of the cargoes, also my letter and necessary documents for that purpose; with the hope and desire that the Almighty has shown his grace that the Assembly of the XIX, to whom everything was consigned, have duly received the same; although, when lying before St Thomé, the ships had lost 42 "eaters" by death, which was a great trouble to us because of the smallness of the crews and the scarcity of victuals for 12 weeks, as they will have 2 dry days (drooge dagen) in the week, which through lack we could not manage otherwise; and that they have had the benefit of God's help.

Observing that I had nothing special more to do at the Island than to let remain in force instructions for the yacht Dolphyn of Horn - that had brought here 280 Marks gold after the closing of the accounts, given it by the Coast Councillors, and added to the return cargo - to trade the Gaboon and Cape de Loop and then to cross over to the Tusk and Quaqua Coast, to which I added to call at Rio Sester in order to be able to learn the state of this factory (which concerns the Chamber Amsterdam), arisen out

of the last voyage of the yacht Postpaert's cargo, which did not succeed as we wished, and have to speak of hereafter.

St. Thomé [ Before I took my departure from the Island I considered it necessary to communicate with Mr Mulder about the regulation of the issue of rations, and represented that one could come to a reduction which will now follow from the resolution to live from the country, to be able to pay the men at  $\$ 4$  monthly both in pork and farina. He represented that he could make no reduction but to  $\$ 8$  monthly, either in the supply of beasts as pork, and farina, and the remainder in wine against 5  $\beta$  the can, at the most. He shouted and blustered very disorderly about it, why his men should receive less than the Gold Coast garrison; which with many detailed reasons I represented otherwise, because everything here costs less, by half, to buy than on the Gold Coast. He further said that if he saw he was coming short in victuals, he would take the store of merchandise; to which I replied that shortly that his authority (qualiteyt) ~~de~~ did not extend so far, except in urgent need, and he must wait till he heard my advice about it. Upon this followed that on the 22nd March a number of soldiers appeared at the Fort and joined with those of the Fort, before the lodging of the Commandant, attacking me, chiefly, with words, requesting that money might be given them weekly or monthly in order to buy refreshments sometimes, as they received nothing daily but a portion of old food (cost). I replied with strong words, that they knew quite well that I had no money, but if they would be content with  $\$ 4$  in gold (as the intention was to live from the country) I would let them have as much as each respectively on the Coast for the month, as soon as I had arrived there. Upon which they <sup>they</sup> could not manage with (te rechte koken) with gold, as they could not get more than 8  $\beta$  for  $\$ 4$  in gold from the Portuguese "derhalve mosten patienteren". They showed their lack (soberheyt) of clothing, that requires not less but rather more. Therefore ordered the Commissaris to issue the Quaqua cloths I brought here. They parted from me only reasonably contented, greatly desiring their discharge as they had been out 7, 8, and 6, and 5 years with a sorrowful question whether they were never to get their relief. YH must consider this well as it causes sullen and unwilling men; they looking so miserable that one ought to be moved to demand their relief. ]

Having given orders on other and various necessary matters, I resolved to depart from the Island, having always in mind that my presence was required on the Coast of Guinea, on the 23rd ditto I sailed by the yacht Fortuyn of Amsterdam

which, through contrary winds and storm and thunder, it was difficult to stand out; so I fear the four ships will have tasted all too much of it. And after we had got the wind from the West, we arrived before AXEM, with the express intention of calling at that place. We arrived on the 15th April intending to take off 7-800 iron staves as I had understood from advices from Factor Coymans that the leeward places were nearly destitute of subsidiary goods (bijwaren); as also to make redress against the wantonness that AXEM is doing to us, because we seek to exert ourselves for the Company's profit by preventing the trade to the Quaqua Coast, which for the most part ought to come to the profit of the Company, since it becomes difficult to subsist the garrison and no profits of value are produced for the Company. Meantime the district is filled with Quaqua cloths and the Company has no sale in other goods.

When we dropped anchor there, Factor Hendrik Froom appeared on board and reported that the AXEMS did not cease to treat the Company's servants badly and showed many signs of insubordination. Yes, already before my departure to St Thomé they had been so bold as to shamefully murder one of our soldiers and to wound two; which went much too far to be borne any longer. I therefore had the Captain and Caboseros summoned to appear before me and to give the reasons why they showed such hostility towards us; besides the affronts they had shown to the Fiscal, who had been sent there in my name, while I was at St Thomé, to devise a good basis, and to prevent any more canoes sailing to the Quaqua Coast without permission; which had always been observed with the Portuguese in order that the Quaquas might appear there themselves in order to trade, on such conditions that the cloths coming down came first into the hands of the Company to buy at its discretion, and to leave the rest to their "devotie", provided that all goods they needed for them (consisting mostly in Acory) they must buy from the Company, and that, as cheaply as the Acory has to be bartered at De Myna or CRAA.

On the 16th, having come here yesterday, I proceeded on shore and after some waiting, some Caboseros appeared before the Fort, but chiefly ringleaders and agitators, who did not appear for this good purpose and will not let the others come in, but sent some deputies and report that the rest are afraid; with which I am not well pleased, as I made solemn promises that no harm should be done them, but was duly seeking to mediate everything. But nothing came of either good words or threats, and in various actions they show they are making a mock of us. On the 17th they took entirely to flight, which we sought to

prevent with several shots from the large cannon. But they would not listen and so I had the upper and lower village set on fire so far that few houses remained standing. Meanwhile one, AFFO, appeared, who went to and fro, but they could not come to any resolution to do my will that they should not sail any more to the Quaqua Coast, as the profits attracted them too much, and from fishermen they mostly become traders. Meanwhile they remained in the forest, with great hunger, and did all the damage to us that they could. Yes, on one day they deprived us of seven slaves at a time. They would not come to any agreement, the chief cause of which was that the English began to interfere in this, and by incitement kept it so long protracted that, finally, last month, they were then pleased to behave with moderation with the Fiscal - who with all the soldiers from the newly arrived ship 'tHoff van Zeeland proceeded on shore to visit them in the bush (bos), and as he had found them fled, again to set fire to the huts they had erected - and declared that they were willing to comply with our proposals, and that they would make no more voyages with canoes to the QUAQUA Coast. They restored some slaves they had carried off and said the others had run away. How they will behave in future, time will show, but I fear they will not keep their promises, and if they break them, then AXEM is of no great value to the Company and will give more damage than profit, unless a strong garrison of at least 20 men is kept there. For the people of ASINE and ABINE were accustomed to come down to buy iron, and now they keep away entirely, as they have as much as they want from ships which supply them, whereas otherwise they have to paddle 10 miles (mylen). In fine, even if this Fort were dismantled the Company would not lose, especially as the QUAQUA Coast does not accrue (toevallen) to us as desired, to which there is still some hope of attaining, which time may yet show and in which we shall use diligence.

I proceeded from AXEM on the 20th April with the intention to reinforce the garrison which was then provided with only 11 Whites - which I afterwards brought up to 20 - and arrived before del Myna on the 21st, after having left there on the 17th January; truly all too long, for various considerations which YHH will be able to understand from the continuation. Firstly, the Chief Factor, Isaac Coymans, made report that strong rumours were current among the Blacks that the English Company's officers were resorting to means to persuade the King of SABOUW to deprive us of the Fort Nassauw, and then they would purchase it from the King for a good sum of gold; with the admonition that

it was easy for him to do as it was provided with such a poor garrison; which seems atrocious and nevertheless credible, considering that the King has had me informed of it, with the names of the persons who have sought to do everything in the name of the English. But he makes promises that he will not take it in hand during the time of his government; but that the King has been in doubt what he should do in this, and we will not pledge our word that he was guiltless as, in my absence at St Thomé he has twice been to Mouré at night, in person, without having any following with him (which is not their custom). We believe he has done this in order to learn the manner of our keeping guard. Wij mercken aen de Mourés inhabitants dat den Coninck gansch hebben tegen gestaen om de onheylen die voor h/aer deel daeruit stonden te spruyten. Finding myself uneasily disquieted about this because the garrisons in all Forts are so weak to reinforce the Mouré garrison and to reduce d'Myna as it could allow, I proceeded in person to Mouré and sent the Chief Factor, Joris van Hoogenhouck, to the King to learn something about the matter. The King and Caboseros of SABOU persisted in their previous statement that the Factor of the English, named George Middleton, had had several requests made to them all that the Fort Nassauw might be captured (geincorporeert) and then he would buy it from them. They declare that they have ~~not~~ do not intend this, that therefore they ought to be thought of and that he should not fail to give them an honourable present in order to avert further ill. He left them well contented, but when Factor Hoogenhouck was taking his leave from the King he gave him this tip (foij) in secret, that it was good that I had returned from St Thomé and most strongly recommended that the garrison at Mouré should be provided with more men, stating also that they would take as much care as we ... (sic). I should comply with their request if the Company would provide us with as many men as are indeed necessary here.

It is not sufficient that the English venture upon the aforesaid during ~~the~~ my absence from the Coast, but they labour still further, and have so far persuaded the FETU King (notwithstanding that just before my departure to St Thomé it had cost the Company about 2 Marks gold to get their ship, named King James, which lay before SBO CABO CORS away from there, as reported in more detail in my last) that they came to trade there again, at first with a yacht, and got so far that the King has allowed them to establish a lodge at CABO CORS; which dishonourable and perfidious action of the FETUS did not at all please me, and we therefore got into great contention

with him, and since we considered that we could not resolve again at this time to stop their rascally action with gifts and presents, we used all zeal to divert the ACANISTS from here to CABO CORS, daer niet toequam alhoewel de tollen van negotie dapper beswaerden.

Before the English took in hand the making of the Lodge, their Principal, George Middleton, appeared here. I exhorted him with many irrefutable arguments, yet to stop his intention so that he should not complain afterwards, with the warning that if he took it in hand we should not stand still, and that the numerous requests and offers of the Braffo of FANTIUN could easily be taken in hand. He paid no attention to this, proceeded quickly with the work in the month of May (1647) and made the Lodge in the same fashion as the one that the Company has standing there.

The Braffo and Caboseros of FANTYN, Caboseros of CORMANTYN, and principally the ACANISTS there, take great displeasure in what Mr Middleton intends, to divert a portion of the merchandise which all used to be brought there, and take the resolution to make another trial with the request that I will lay a ship or yacht at CORMANTYN, to make a Lodge or Fort at the place which pleases me best, even were it next to the English. To that end they sent deputies from all the three aforementioned, with great promises that they will remedy the displeasure that was taken by my predecessor and henceforth, in the receipt of gold, give preference to us before the English, and they take a great aversion to them, ~~as they desire to be governed by the English, and have no regard for the Braffo's.~~ We have taken their manifold requests, made since a year and a half, into consideration, especially about making a Lodge that we could maintain with 3 Whites and 5-6 slaves. Wherefore we sent Chief Factor Coymans, assisted by Factor Valckrave, with written instructions (supra, p. 168) to FANTYN, so as to be able to understand the full intentions of the BRAFFO. The report that Coymans made YHH can see in the annexures (supra p. 171). Thereupon I found good to proceed to leeward to find out the most suitable place, either ANNAMABO or ATJA, with the determination not at CORMANTYN, although the Braffo had offered it to us, but to remain beyond the command of the guns of the English. ANNAMABO I found as convenient for the coming in of boats and canoes as ATJA, but on coming to CORMANTYN, where the ACCANISTS, BRAFFO, and other Caboseros, who showed great pleasure at my coming there, then came to the subject of the business and, firstly, with great persistence, requested that I would not adopt the idea of a Lodge at ANNAMABO, but at ATJA, because it was much

and handier (~~gooder~~) and nearer CORMANTYN for them; which, after careful examination, I granted them. They made great promises that they would procure gold for us and recommended that we should supply them well with merchandise especially serges (zaeyen), which I have promised them to animate YHH so that there may be no lack in this. Many ACANISTS presented us me with sheep fowls and other foodstuffs, which makes expensive meat, but which for various reasons I did not refuse; as if their presents are not accepted they take it as a great disdain of their persons. As I understood that the English officers, besides Mr Middelton were in the village, I was careful not to neglect to invite them to a friendly meal, and so appeared the skipper of the Hope, Mr Richard Houw, the subfactor Mr Lucas, and the preacher Domine Horatio Wirby, whom I received properly, treated as well as was in my power, and some little time was spent in gaily gaily, until the Captain and principal ACCANISTS and the Caboseros of CORMANTYN and FANTYN came to visit us; until, finally, a Captain of the ACCANISTS, named CORANCIJN, upon whom the English very greatly rely as he spends his gold with no one else but them (which he has several times had done through his servants, at Mouré) asked whether the dispute with the people of FETU particularly JAN HUMNEQUA and JAN CLAESSEN had been settled. I replied "no", and that even if they had 50 pound (pont) gold I would not receive it from them unless the King first fulfilled the contract that Mr van Yperen had made with the FUTUYS. Upon this statement of mine the Factor or sub-Factor, who thought we should have some respect for his expensive clothes, interposed and said, ~~sonder dat het niet propoost is~~ that the King and of FETU and traders had made several requests for a Lodge to be made at CABO CORB; to which I simply replied that I quite believed it, and knew that the Blacks were only a set of rascals and served the devil for money; and further informed them that the Braffo had been at us for longer than a year and a half to make a Lodge or Fort here, dat sij niet en konden aennemen ten sij ick mij nu met groote gifte aan de Braffo hadde verthoont dat niet naer de merite van de Logie monteert; still this was not to be brought about without expense, but for much less than the late Mr Arent Jacobsz and Mr van Iperen had spent and did not attain the desired result. I caused their opinion, ~~and~~ contrary to the English, to appear as I put before the Braffo's deputies, the Caboseros of CORMANTYN, and ACCANISTS, who were present, whether they had not on several occasions formed deputations to me and requested and made offers either to place the Company on shore,

sept 1647



were ~~generally~~, and the Blacks and the English do not mock us. While I was sitting in the assembly of the ACCANISTS and Caboceros, a shot was fired from the English Fort, the ball flying over our heads and damaging a Black's house; having found the same, it weighed about 6 pounds (~~weight~~). The ACCANISTS and Caboceros excitedly went to the Fort to ask for what purpose they did this, requesting that I would stay there that day. Coming to the Fort ~~they found~~ the whole crowd ~~gathered~~ ~~there~~ they said they would not stop firing because they (i.e. the Cormantyners) wished to place the Company at ATIA. All the Blacks cried out together that if Mr Middleton should come to hit one child, they would kill all the English. They got similar threats also from the Braffo of FANTYN. They left off firing in the daytime, but fired another shot in the evening at nine o'clock. ~~They then returned to their houses and~~ ~~the~~ ~~Fort~~ ~~is~~ ~~indeed~~ ~~defensible~~ ~~against~~ ~~an~~ ~~assault~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Blacks~~ ~~but~~ ~~they~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ ~~cut~~ ~~off~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~Blacks~~ ~~in~~ ~~fetching~~ ~~their~~ ~~water~~ ~~and~~ ~~they~~ ~~have~~ ~~no~~ ~~water~~ ~~inside~~. Likewise also are we placed at Fort Nassau as the tank (~~bar~~) has burst, for which I have taken much trouble to get it closed in but cannot effect it. For this 20 casks cement (~~cask~~) would be necessary in order to repair this needful work if we came to get into a hitch from the SABOU King.

As the English, in the month of May, began and completed their Lodge in the Blacks' manner, we have completed the Company's in the month of August (in order to be prepared against fire) in the following manner: in length, within the walls, 60 feet (voeten); breadth 18 ditto; 12 to 13 feet high; soo lang als de packhuys is, 14 feet is binnen van't packhuys, with a partition wall, for a trading place. Above this, a room for the Factor's lodging of 14 feet long, & 9 feet high; the roof above. The bottom layer made with bricks (steen die hebbe doen backen); the second layer with Sincket(?); the walls of stone (klipsteen) 2 feet thick everything ~~opgevocht~~ opgevrocht with lime; and we are having the merchandise sent into it. It stands  $\frac{3}{4}$  myl from the CORMANTYN Fort on a rocky height close to the sea (According to the map, the two points are 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  mile from each other in a direct line). Being at the work, the English often came to visit it, and some of them said to our men that at some time or other they will violently pull it down (~~over de wal~~ ~~ruycken~~), which they cannot effect unless the Braffo of FANTYN (Fonteyn) allows himself to be bribed a second time, which we hope to take care shall not happen, ~~but~~

Aja.

But if they came and treated us in this manner, which God forbid, and at the small Fort CAMA, for which they are likewise lying in wait, in order to have it plundered by the Blacks, and then purchase, how we should act in this, whether we should seek revenge on them or not, YHH will please to decide about it, and send copy of your resolution hither, which we shall expect by the first opportunity. Do not be too much surprised, YHH, over all the ~~things (concealed)~~ <sup>forehaue</sup> that the English daily take in hand; but to make pertinent evidence of everything, YHH can well understand is not possible. However, besides keeping a watchful eye, we are continually warned by the Blacks about this, and we are of opinion that everything is being done by order of their masters. God will guard us from those ideas that we do not seek to buy their Fort like as they have sought to do the Fort Nassauw. YHH ~~must reinforce this garrison in another manner than has been done for a long time.~~ <sup>We had so deputed de Myna</sup> in order to guard AXEM, CHAMA, and Fort Nassau, that before the arrival of 'tHoff van Zeeland each corporal's guard (corporalschap) could consist of not more than 12 men. Moreover, we have had to remove all the soldiers from St Jago and have the guns thrown off the carriages. It is also the fact that the Blacks, through the supplies of the foreign nation(s) have got so full of powder and muskets that I fear it will come ill for ~~th us or them~~ them or us; for while we have been in dispute with those of FETU for  $\$$  4 to 5 months, the Blacks have indeed dared to say stoutly, "What are they of del Mya? If we wished to cut off their water then no Whites could assist them, and we have as much powder and lead as they." And if the Company values its conquests, then are required to be sent by each ship, even though a-a 4 appear annually which God forbid are too often lacking, 50 for St Thomé and 30 for this Coast. At St Thomé are many "old" men who greatly hanker after ~~reilief~~ their relief. YHH will please to remember that even were 80 men sent out by each ship, not thirty will be found a year later. God Almighty has taken unusually few men from us in the current year, and if we had suffered as in the year 1646, YHH can well imagine how few there would be now. We shall speak further about the Lodge CABO CORS in the following, and proceed with other matters.

The yacht Dolphyn, which shortly before my departure to St Thomé, I had despatched to trade the Gabon and Cape de Loop and in crossing over to call at River Sester, arrived on the 21st ultimo. It brought no more than 209 elephants tusks, weighing 4536 lb, for the general account. Meantime it visited River Sester where it was very ~~wisepae~~

wretched, and found no one else in the Postpaert's factory than one Joris Wood (?), an Englishman, who made report that in the month of August 1646 he had reached there in an English ship for the slave trade, which had fitted up a chaloup in the river, and (found) the Factor Jan Koijer lying in his sleeping place in a very miserable state, crippled in hands and feet, who begged him to stay there as his "bijlegger" Ogge Tiens (? a name?) eleven days before he came there had been killed (-ver... (versl... ?) by an elephant who sought to swim over the river with the intention to shoot it, so that Jan Koijer had no one with him but a de dumb slave, who did what he liked with the merchandise. Jan Koijer had died after the Englishman had been with him 4 months, who also sank into difficulties. He knew no accounts and could tell nothing about them. They found no notes or papers except an invoice of the goods, which he last received from Facot Eechoudt on the Postpaert's account, and YHH will see from the accounts of the aforementioned Eechoudt that the return cargo consisted in 221 small elephants' tusks of little value, weighing 1485 lb, & 24,000 lbs grain, of which we intended to form an account according to the price list (marckt brief) which had received from the Postpaert's Factor; which we could not effect by a long way. We have therefore let it rest at that and consigned the proceeds to the Chamber of Amsterdam per the Huis Nassouw, seeing that they came from the Postpaert's cargo. It is not advisable to place men there, as the Englishman reported that the Blacks would not sell their tusks to the Leggers according to the price list that was given them, to barter 14 lb against one stave as they can get nine pound from the foreign nations. (He) related further that in February last, about 14 miels above River Sester, a certain ship appeared sailing along the coast, and at the same hour caught fire, without him knowing what nationality it was; but it is to be feared that it was a Netherlands ship as, so he himself saw, two "Toppers mutsen" an eastern chest with Netherlands sea clothing were washed ashore, without having seen any other signs. God Almighty preserve the Company from damage.

We have given the Englishman proper salary with the intention of sending him home by the first-going ship, but when he had been here about a month, he ran away to the English, and although I earnestly requested the English that he might be placed in our hands again, he has not appeared; which is acting improperly, for shortly before, an English sailor deserted to us, whom I at once sent back, without employing him.

For the following considerations, (and with his willing consent) we have found good to remove the Fiscal from CRAA, in May, as he was stationed somewhat too far away in order to be in the ships and yachts at the windward places; secondly, we can place more reliance on him, than the AXEM Factor Froom, to look after affairs there so that the Company can get the QuaQua cloth trade. CRAA we hope will be well provided with the Elle Hammingh, who came from Groningen. Therefore we have allowed him an increase from f 30 to f 50.

In the annexures to the last letter of the 18th March, has come to YHH an invoice of the private goods seized in the frigate Fendracht of Middelburg which, except for a few loose beads, were sold and produced Mk. 10: oz. :5 eng 17, of which, according to the sentence, the Company has received 1/3rd part, the remaining 2/3rds having gone to the Fiscal and the poor box (arm bus). I do not doubt that this trade will come to an end.

Great diligence has been exercised, in the first instance, by Chief Factor Isaac Coymans, to ~~save~~ <sup>leave</sup> the goods from the miserable wreck of the burnt ship Groningen although not without having cost much in payment of salvage to the Blacks ... and on my return from St Thomé, all possible means have been taken both in employing divers and "instruments" to break up the wreck, but little progress was made until finally with an "opgaende stroom" it broke up, and no more has been produced for the Company, in merchandise, <sup>oil</sup> grain and ship's goods, than YHH can see from the accompanying invoice....

As regards the further state of the Coast, concerning trade it falls as badly as it has done for many years. Yes, it is as if the Blacks do no more seeking for gold, besides which they plague each other with waging wars at the places where a great part of it used to come down which we cannot say will quickly be done terwijl de Swarten soo different in oppinie zijn in gevalle, dees passen op raecken is geschapen veel gout sal opbrengen, aengesien de lantschappen verhongert zijn. Since our last general "Extract" YHH can see our receipts up to date, of which you have received by the las four last departed ships, Mk 311-4-13 $\frac{1}{2}$  eng., and there is still with us Mk. 746-5-11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but the subsistence monies take much away. I fear that a bad return cargo will go by the next ships, which I hope will leave St Thomé in March next, which I well wish may be two; and if we get in the debts well, will amount to about 40,000 aroben, besides what YHH will receive per Huis Nassauw.

If the Coast had produced proper gold, than we ought to

be entirely destitute of merchandise of what has been sent us. The disaster to the ship Groningen has produced remarkable profits for the English as, on 31st May, they vermaenen the ship Hope with a reasonably assorted cargo, wijens courantste waeren metter snapwech-ingen en hun indien niet coste stutten; but having understood that the ship had brought a large parcel of lijwaet we placed the market at 135 a per benda, daer in ons volgt en is naermaels op 120 (?) gestelt, versheyde speculatie hebben wij op verclaeringe van Engelsen handt daertegen spelt haer lijwaet niet meer als 6 sty (?) de a courant kosten and those YHH send us 8 sty(?) and more; so that we cannot think otherwise of later 'tralat(?) op staen dat doch niet gelief te observeren, want indien deselve 135 a geven and meer 6 sty(?) komt te kosten soo konnen zij ten naesten bij bijzonder blijven sonder cargasoen te cargeren kan beste voor de Compe uitwreken.

De waardige poorte heeft door manquement van goederen insonderheynt Koper, nepten, staeven, en saeyen, veel goudts ontfangh moeten missen en 'tgoudt na de boven plaetse gesaecht. 't is schadelijk dat soo veel aen de vreemde natien rennen (?). YHH must necessarily supply us well with saeyen. I am confident that ACRAA is good for (mchtig) 4-500 p. annually and when there are saeyen then they buy little lijwaet. De 117 a per benda gelijk wij aldaer geven, komen de Compe op f 45 te staen alwaer 2 oncen goudt van goudt. Een stuck Saey costs f37-f38 which we could readily sell at 2 onz, 8 eng. YHH will please to take into observation what injury you do by sending few saeyen. [The English doen groote intercessie aen den COMMANDEUR tot CRAA aldaer een Logie te mogen stabilieren, dat ons dagelijckx van de CRACE wert aengesegt dat met alle kracht souck te wederhouden, 'twelck niet can toegaen of moeten ons laten sien met vermaninge en schenkagie. Den COMMANDEUR die dit Landschap meest regert (alhoewel datter koningh is) doet ons groote beloften niet te willen ingaen dien wech and is grateful for what I have sent him. His youngest brother is here with me, whom he offers to leave in hostage, en sien de effecten tegemoet. *we await the result.*

On the 28th February last, the English sent the ship Houttuyn from the Coast with return cargo, and the ship Hope that arrived on 31st May, will depart as soon as the Golden Star (which they expect daily) appears. They also have here a yacht of 50-60 tons that navigates the Benyn and Bight. ...

\* [The English with urgent requests to the Commander at Craa to be allowed to establish a lodge there, as we are daily told by the Craa. This we try to prevent with all our power but it can only be done by admission of valuable presents. The Commander who side with the Craa (although there is a Kina) makes great

~~The present situation, as reported by the ...  
... in the ...  
... would be ...  
... of the ...  
... ..~~

The Benyn factory at this time is of little significance ... (further thereon) ...

Tusk trade

De hoogste tandhalinge geeft de Compe geen inloop na wens, doordien soo dicht van ons ende vreemde natien wert bevaren, dat soo veel dierte van tanden als slaven maeckt; op de Quaqua Cust van gelijcken, dan wij reguleeren ons na den tyt en is niet geraden stil te staen op dat alle tanden ons niet mogen ontsluypen.

The fluyt ship Huis Nassau on behalf of the Chamber Zealand, 120-130 tons, 12 guns, 22 eaters, arrived on 26 June last and brought me copy of the letter from the Assembly of the XIX sent by the Groningen, to which I shortly replied by the Haerlem of Amsterdam which left here on 1st June; and letters from the Chamber Zealand with a St. Thomécargo ammounting to F 14,848:9:12.... As to the lack of soldiers. ...

[ The recommendations that YHH make alle devoiren aante-nemen om de Swarten in devotie te houden en alle beden-lycke meddelen bij te brengen is niet door ons verzuymt. Plegen alle neerstigheyt to stand well with them and to "plant" the trade; but the Blacks show little gratitude ende werden door 't versohot van te veel vallende natie schepen soo (dertel ( wellustig: lichtzinnig: dartzel) dat bijna langer geen readt mede weten, gestadig dit in de mond hebbende, "Indien Ghij niet en wilt daer sijn andere natien die geerne willen"; en dat de Engelsen alsins haer wortelen soucken te planten, dat is sekeré. Daerom hebben wij vlijt gedaen, 'tgeen sonder onkosten niet en kan uitgevrecht werden. De Engelse van CABO CORS te helpen, dat wat anders is te seggen als hun uit de rivier Benyn te houden, den handel weder tot fleur te stellen, is kans, if the required cargoes are sent to us: but instead of at least 600000 which we annually, which we need, not four is sent. How can this make a good work? and so long as YHH are neglectful in this and you cannot supply the warehouses with a Scherde coopmanschap, then I see no remedy for getting the English away. In gevalle wij hun kosten besetten, dat met vervullen(sic) van coopschappen ende van goudt ontfangen werden gefrustreert wij soo wel voorsien waren als sij,

*[Handwritten notes in Dutch at the bottom of the page, partially illegible.]*

p 198/q Translation of [ ]

Yr Honors' recommendation to make every effort to keep the Blacks devoted to us is not neglected by us. We take every care to stand well with them & to establish trade; but they shew little gratitude & become wanton because so many foreign ships appear, & they continually say "If you will not come there other nations will gladly do so" It is certain that the English are trying to take root everywhere. We have been diligent about this but it certainly cannot be done without expense. There is a chance to get the English away from Cabo Corso - which also means to keep them out of the Benin river - & to get the trade to flourish again, if the cargoes, required are sent to us, but instead of at least 500,000 which we need annually, not 4 is sent. How can this be good business? As long as Yr Honors neglect this & cannot supply the warehouses with an abundance of goods then I see no remedy for getting the English away. If we could sell them & receive the gold they would be first rated. If we were as well supplied as they & I firmly believe they would be discouraged, especially now that we have obtained from the Proffro the establishment of a lodge at Afia [Aja] which will cause them a bigger crack than if they had stayed at Cabo Corso. When I was at Cormantien to arrange for a lodge I found that there appeared to be a division among the Accants & they had separated. And especially in the Accany country one party had promised us that they would all come & reside at Afia; the principal of whom namely Master Tamson Amin, Asommemba called "Ruychauer" by the Whites, Cofy, Small & Great Abraham, who are all fine traders & very well known to Mr Ruychauer, already shew signs of building. I hope by good treatment, to bring the others, who are still attached to the English, so far that they will side with us, but much depends upon good factors. Meanwhile we have obtained the promise of the Captain of the Accants that he will divide the half of his gold, as he is greatly bound to the English because he draws on Benda monthly from them. We hope there will be good fruit for the Co & that we shall get the Captain & some of his followers following to us. This must be done with satisfying merchandize.

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~~On 20th Dec 1747 the ship was ordered to be repaired & to be ready to sail on the 25th Dec 1747. The ship was repaired & sailed on the 25th Dec 1747. The ship was repaired & sailed on the 25th Dec 1747. The ship was repaired & sailed on the 25th Dec 1747.~~





-The arrival of the Hoff van Zeelandt on 11th Sept. with it disappointingly sober cargo.-

-Complains at length of the way they are treated in the supply of victuals, reporting ~~heavy~~ shortages in weight in the barrels of pork, bacon and stockfish; and the insufficient time for which the above ship was victualled. He asks for good supervision against the frauds of the purveyors.-

-The number of soldiers was only 39 instead of 20 for the Coast and 30 for St Thomé being sent as decided; also 4 ships do not come annually. The necessity to relieve the se time-expired soldiers.-

... Further on St Thomé. ...

-On the cargoes bought from Mr Ritterson & Mr Joseph Terregan, a profit was made of Mk.18:3oz:3 $\frac{1}{2}$  eng.

...  
-Sends formula of goods required.-

On the 16th of this month October we sent the yacht Reael with merchandise for the first time to the Lodge (sic) with the Chief Factor Hubrecht Valckrave, sub-factor Jan Hubrechtsz, and sub-assistant Pieter van Noortwijk. We observe in these three persons a good humeur to be able to omgaen with the Blacks in which the Company is much concerned. I hope it will be lucky for the Company and fall out according to wish. Although the Equipage master, who came from there yesterday, reports to us that the English within the period of three months have had it said that they will destroy the Lodge there by some means or other, I believe they will not neglect to persuade the BRAFFO of FANTYN by good gifts, but I am confident he will not allow it, als ons mede 'twelck de Comp sal moeten getroost wesen op dat niet moogen obtineeren. I do not believe they will have the courage to undertake anything without the knowledge of the BRAFFO; and if they do anything without his knowledge they stand in peril of all being killed. They further tell the Blacks that they are daily looking out for a ship Golden Star and when that has arrived they will see something otherwise than the Hope's crew. YHH if this is done it will appear strange; therefore resolve upon our former request whether we should seek

to get revenge (seeing a chance on their ships or Fort), for in order to encourage the Blacks, sal de Loogies compmanschap veel sijn & de Compe duisenden comen ten rooff stellen.

Their yacht is van de 6th instant doende geweest om te sail to AXEM with the intention to trade there & to establish a Lodge "een militieu" above the Company's Fort. We are glad to see this because this will wook to their Masters' injury & conden wij sij AXEM soo wel als wij souden dit staeck<sup>e</sup>; but their principal object is to incite the inhabitants against us & to see whether they could in time get the Fort to their devotie. The Fiscal will continue there for a considerable time, who makes great voorlagen which he thinks will fall out according to wish. I fear they will be deceived in their intentions.

We stellen op de memorij the great need of Prince flags, then it will be good at first also to give each ship an English flag, om off de AXEMSE Swarten op a new rebellie sochten aentehechten; that the ships from home may be ordered to call first at AXEM and to let the English flag fly, soo omdat de Fiscal aldaar gewoonlijk sullen vinden als om eenige Swaerten aen boord te krijgen who show us enmity, & whom the skippers of the ships get on board, to keep them until the Fiscal or someone else comes on board, to make known what Blacks they are. This ought not to be forgotten in the Instructions.

-Again asks for his discharge.- The chief Factor at Fort Nassouw has been out 8 years & is beginning to fail. One of most faithful & competent factors. Isaac Coymans, also with good reason, asks for his discharge.-

- ... As to St Thomé ...

Herewith, &c  
YHhs' faithful servant,  
(sgd) J. van der WEL.

17th October 1647 at the Castle  
del Myna in Guinea.

XIX.

Original letter from Dir.Gen. van J.A. van der WEL, to the Gentlemen at the Chamber Zeeland, dated "17th October 1647 at the Castle del Myna, p ship 'tHuis Nassauw."

Note. This letter, of 9 photographic pages, deals in great detail with the ships and their cargoes received and shipped. Only the following paragraph, on photo 3, has been copied:

... ..  
 We have come to a matter which cost the Company a large sum of gold, in the governments of Messrs van Yperen and Arent Jacobsz, and which was not obtained, for the placing of a Lodge at ANNAMABO, which the English have always prevented by giving the BRAFFO of FANTYN large presents. But ditto BRAFFO having ~~got a light~~ that this was not so profitable for him as to tollereren our nation, has in the last 1½ years made various requests to me, in his name, and of those of all the ACCANISTS and Caboseros of CORMANTYN that we should come to his(sic) again by providing his port with a yacht or ship for trade, with the further offer that if we will make a Fort or Lodge, he will grant us a place, even were it beside the Fort of the English, to be built as high or as low as we pleased. This ought not to be ~~veroyent~~ since their promises are so great that they will ~~beschiken~~ the Company the receipt of gold; concerning the further afloop, I refer to my letter to the XIX. But this ought to be borne in mind by YHH that the Lodge made ought not to stand with an empty warehouse, so that we are not made a mock of by the English and the Blacks.

... ..

*perceived*

*neglected  
 procure for*

Copy Journal of Director-General van der  
Wel. (WIC.oc.10) (11.)  
(Extracts)

January 2. ... Sent express to the King of FETU to tell him that if he had anything to arrange with me, to let me know, as I intend to leave for St Thomé in 10-12 days. ... Understand from CABO CORSO that the Englishman (anchored before Cabo Corso on December 31, from the Benin with Benin cloths) was ~~seeking to~~ seeking to sell his cloths there, but had little sale.

January 3. - At opening of the gate the express returned. ... The king sent his hearty thanks for the liquor sent yesterday. He was also very pleased that I had shown him sympathy about the ~~foes~~ from ABRAHEMBOU who had tried to pay him a visit, and whom he had so manfully awaited. A deputy also comes on behalf of the King, who asks for some recompense, according to the promise made to him if the English should leave CABO CORSO fruitlessly. It is true that this promise was made, but the King "en compt in dees gevalle geen groote eer"; but I must let this go through (deurgaen) for the service of the Company, and to see that the King remains bound to us (in ons gehoude), not only at this time, but in the future. I have therefore sent him 4 oz: 12 engels, in goods, and his brother 10 engels, total 5 oz: 6 eng. Two runaway slaves recaptured; put in irons, and right ear cut off.... Yacht "Reaal" arrived from Benyn. ... (a long entry with reference to trade and English competition there).

January 6. (Sunday) Had long conversation with English Preacher. Says Mr Leveson will leave by the last arrived ship, in January, considering himself affronted by his masters, as they sent out Mr Francisco Charles, who is dead, by the last ship, above him, ... and here, as Chief, will remain a young "borsje" named Mr Middelton, with an Assistant and a dexterous Black, whom they employ as sub-factor.- He further declared that 3 ships (of the English) "Hope", "Golden Star" and "Tun" (??) which had been here within a year have brought in lywaet alone, 700 thousand @ lywaet; which would amount to f.245,000. ... ..

January 7. Meeting of Council.- By majority of votes Chief Factor Isaac Coeymans appointed to take charge during van der Wel's absence on visit to St Thomé, where he went owing to the bad state of the accounts sent from there.-

January 8. Called in all Captains & Caboceros of Del Myna to tell them of my approaching departure, and on every occurrence to accept the appointed President, Isaac Coeymans, as if I had remained in person at del Myna. This they solemnly promised me to do, in the presence of Coeymans, and to obey his wishes. They wished me good luck and asked for drink money.

January 9. The English Preacher left. ...  
(Note. There are long entries from January 9 - 14, about the arrival of English ships, and of their cargoes and trade).

January 15. ... The Mynse Caboceros tell me that the CHAMA Blacks intend to visit the ANTESE with arms either by land or by sea; and since many MYNSE are there fishing, they fear that their people will suffer much damage thereby. They request that I will stop the CHAMAS in this, and make known in the name of all of us that if they take this in hand, we shall seek to take revenge with arms; which will undoubtedly check the CHAMAS so that they do not undertake their injurious intention.

January 17. -Dir.Gen. van der Wel left Myna on voyage to St Thomé; leaving Isaac Coeymans in charge, as President (of Council).-

January 26. ... - Arrived at St Thomé.

January 27. ... - Landed at St Thomé. - ...

... ..

March 18. (Last entry) (at St Thomé)

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Note. Here the copy Journals in this file, WIC.oc.11., come to an end.

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(end of 1647)

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