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AN  
 ACCOMMODATION  
 OFFERED FOR THE  
 PRESERVATION  
 OF THE  
*AFRICAN* TRADE  
 TO THE  
*BRITISH* NATION.



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SINCE there are such a Variety of Interests, Opinions and Difficulties, concerning the *African* Trade at this Juncture, the following Proposals, by way of Accommodation, are offered for Consideration.

1. That the Trade to *Africa* be free and open to all his Majesty's Subjects, without any undue Preference; and that the *British* Forts, Forces and Settlements, be kept up and maintained on the Gold Coast, on the River

*Gambia*, at *Whyddab*, and in other Parts where our foreign Rivals have, or may have, Forces, Forts and Settlements: And, that there be a sufficient and certain Allowance from Parliament, according to some certain Estimate, to be established for a certain Term of Years, with some further Provision, in case of Wars and other Uncertainties; and that the Board of Trade, or some other Board or Community, or the present Royal *African* Company of *England*, or some other Joint-Stock Company, have the Management of such Allowance, for the Purposes aforesaid.

2. That there be a Governor and Council, to consist of eleven Persons, at *Cape Coast* Castle, *viz.* seven to be appointed by such Managers, one by the Sugar-Planters residing in *England*, and the other three by the *African* Traders of *London*, *Bristol*, and *Liverpool*: And also a Governor and Council, to consist of nine Persons, at *James* Fort on the River *Gambia*, *viz.* five to be appointed by the said Managers, one by the Tobacco and Rice-Planters residing in *England*, and the other three by the *African* Traders of *London*, *Bristol*, and *Liverpool*; or any other Number may form the said Councils, or they may be appointed in any other Proportion, as shall be agreed on.

3. That a Civil and Military Power be properly vested in the said two Councils, who are to receive the Stores and Effects that are to be sent out under the Direction of the said Managers, and to have the Care and Disposal thereof; and to have the Management of all the *British* Forces, Forts and Factories in *Africa*; and that the said Councils make Alliances with the Natives, to protect the Trade, to make Presents, and to hear and determine Disputes between Parties; which Parties are to have Liberty to appeal to the Board of Trade, or to his Majesty in Council, as is usual in the *American* Plantations.

4. That every Person belonging to the said Forts and Settlements, that are appointed or admitted as aforesaid, or any other *British* Subject, have free Liberty to trade on the Coast, or in any of the Forts and Settlements, without Interruption of the said Governors and Councils, or any Members thereof, or by any Person or Persons appointed by them for the Out-Forts and Factories, under the Penalty of such Damages as shall happen or accrue to such Traders, by means of such Interruption.

## OBSERVATIONS

ON THE FOREGOING

## PROPOSALS.

**I**N case the said Councils shall be thus established and remain permanent, by means of a constant Rotation, or Supply, in case of Vacancies, may not such Councils, from such Allowance from Parliament, be able to repair and defend the Forts, and make sufficient Alliances with the Towns adjoining to the Forts, and also with the Inland Powers, to support the *British* Rights and Influence in *Africa*?

But special Care should be taken, that a proper and sufficient Provision be made to pay Governors, Chiefs, and other Officers at the several Forts, and also the necessary Dashes or Presents to the Inland Powers, to countenance and protect the Negro-Traders against the Violence or Interruption of Robbers and discontented Natives, whilst they are carrying their Negroes and other Goods through the Paths and the Inland Countries, to  
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the Sea-Coasts for Sale, and on their Return : And, also to enable such Councils to guard and defend the *British* Property in *Africa*, in case of Wars or sudden Invasions, which may occasionally amount to several Thousands ; as in the Case of *James Fort* in the River *Gambia*, demolished by the *French*, and rebuilt at a very great Expence of the Royal *African* Company of *England* ; and also in the Case of *Fredericksbourg*, taken by the Natives from the *Dutch*, and recovered at the Expence of a long and chargeable War.

For if Provision should not be made by the Publick to guard against such Mischiefs or Accidents, it cannot be expected that any separate Traders, without any permanent Property there, will advance their Money on such Occasions, without any View of a Reimbursement ; because one Fort or Settlement may serve their Turn as well as another. And to carry it further, any other Branch of the *African* Trade may serve their Turn, as well as the Trade to the Gold Coast, *Whyddah*, and *Gambia*, whilst they have no other Property or Effects there than such as are carried thither for Sale.

And besides, our separate Traders, with or without an uncertain Joint-Stock or Stocks, and without any Rights in or to the Forts and Castles, may not find it their Interest to have a constant Assortment of Goods or Magazines in all our Forts and Settlements, to create a permanent Interest, Awe and Dependency amongst the Natives in *Africa*, so as to encourage them to become our Allies, and not to give a Preference, in Matters of Trade, to our neighbouring Rivals.

A Joint-Stock Company to trade as a Corporation, with a permanent Property on Shore, will always find it their Interest to have such a constant Assortment of Goods, for the Reasons just mentioned, and also to advance their own Money in case of Wars or Insults, or any other necessary Charges, which is what the present Royal  
*African*

*African* Company of *England* have done, without any Allowance from the Publick, for many Years together ; and this has been attended with such national Advantage, as to preserve the present *British* Rights in *Africa* down to this Day, (unless our Rivals in Trade have lately succeeded in their Attempts to defeat us of such Rights at *Anamaboe*, or elsewhere :) And notwithstanding this publick Service, the Company are still without any Compensation or Reimbursement for such Services, which has reduced them to their present melancholy Circumstances.

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