

do know, that whatever he may have thought of the course pursued by the Am. Fur Co., he held in perfect odium this relic of tyranny a system of espionage in other men's concerns.* But there really being no grounds, except as above hinted, for this parade of weapons against that Company, the probability is Mr. Burnett did not furnish the desired information; and it is further probable, that his not doing so, was one cause of his proscription in 1834. There were, no doubt, some things in the management of the fur trade about as detrimental to the interests of the Indians, as in the trade of merchants generally with the whites. But the advantages that both are to the communities in which they are established, so far exceed their disadvantages, that the latter sink into the shade of forgetfulness in the light of the former.

In twenty years' residence among Indians, traders and Canadians, I have not been able to discover any tendency towards Canada or the British government from the employment of Canadians or foreigners in the fur trade. The only thing that I could discern as influencing the Indians towards the British, was the presents given them on Drummond's Island in Lake Huron. While these were given, the Indians from the head of Lake Superior and its tributaries would go occasionally to get them, but when these were discontinued, their visits were also discontinued. Nor were the profits of the fur trade so very valuable as was supposed; in proof of which we have the failure of one of the companies, as well as the vast majority of their factors or sub-traders. The trader might sell his goods for three times their original cost, and yet be the loser in the transaction. To give an idea of this, or the facts in the case, the account stands as follows:

*It may well be regretted that so much stress is laid upon this matter by Mr. Brunson. Of the writer of the letter cited, we know nothing—the letter itself comes to us as anonymous; and the "by authority" may well have been assumed for some sinister or vindictive purpose the writer had in view against the American Fur Company. Narratives like this, designed for historic preservation, to go forth under the auspices of the State Historical Society, and designed too for readers of all shades of political opinion, should never be marred by even the semblance of party prejudice or personal animosity.