

It was unfortunate for us, that we were not present, when your Lordship came on board the ship (Resolution) soon after her arrival in the river Thames. You were accompanied by a lady, who having seen our live birds, which we had destined for the Queen, manifested an unbounded affection towards the pretty creatures, and a violent longing to be made mistress of them. The keeper had no orders to part with them, and therefore the lady after repeatedly signifying to him that she wished to have them, went away highly dissatisfied. When we heard of this circumstance, it was too late to apply a remedy. Our birds had already been announced, and we had obtained Her Majesty's most gracious permission to bring them to Kew.

I must entreat your Lordship, not to think too hardly of me for recalling to your mind what may be a very insignificant circumstance. My reason for mentioning it, upon so serious an occasion as the present, is briefly this. Your conduct towards us, has been so uniformly unjust, that I have in vain put my invention to the rack, to discover a flaw in my father's behaviour, which could have given your proceedings the faintest colouring of justice. Unwilling, however, to believe, that a man of your Lordship's judgment acted without any motive whatsoever, I turned over in my mind a variety of circumstances, which at last gave me the option to conclude, either that your motive was the most wanton, and most sanguinary disposition for cruelty, a disposition too diabolical to be supposed to exist in a human breast; or, that our misfortunes owed their origin to the influence of the lady just mentioned, as she might perhaps have found a great pleasure in revenging herself upon those who were very innocently the cause of her disappointment. This said, my Lord, I shall no longer stop to consider the impulses, which led you to unjust actions, but proceed to the facts themselves, which need no surmises to heighten their atrociousness.

I have already observed, that Captain Cook, at his return from his first voyage, declined to write an account of it, and laid aside all thoughts of