

1763, 13 Abril, Providence. Acordo dos produtores de velas de espermacete

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We the subscribers, manufacturers of spermaciti candles, being met together at Providence in N. E. this 13th day of April, 1763, have agreed for ourselves and partners respectively (notwithstanding any alteration that may happen in our respective houses within the term herein after mentioned) honorably to adhere and abide by the following articles - Viz.

First. That we will and hereby do unite ourselves into one body for our general and particular interest for the full term of one year from and after the date hereof, i.e. until the 13th day of April, 1764.

Second. That we will not at any time within said term, by any means either directly or indirectly by ourselves or others for us by present, promises or otherwise pay or engage to pay or give for headmatter more than ten pounds sterling per tun above the current price of common merchantable spermaceti body brown oyl nor receive any headmatter at a greater or difference. Which said price of said common oyl shall at all times be ascertained by the current price given by the merchants of Boston for the London market at the day the purchaser receives any headmatter. But in case there be no current price settled at that day by the merchants aforesaid, then the next following current price by them given for such oyl shall govern the price of said headmatter.

Third. That from and after the date hereof and until the said 13th day of April, 1764, we will not by any means, directly or indirectly receive or engage to receive any headmatter but only from the following persons who shall be our only buyers or factors for Headmatter during said term. Viz. Joseph and William Rotch, Sylvanus Macey and Co, Folger and Gardner, Robert and Jessie Barker, Obed Macey, Richard Mitchell and Jonathan Burnell, all of Nantucket, Henry Lloyd of Boston, George Jackson of Providence, and Benjamin Mason of Newport. And we will not by any means directly or indirectly give or allow our said Factors more than two and a half per cent consideration as a commission or otherwise for their trouble.

Fourth. That all the headmatter caught in North America and brought into any port thereof after the date hereof and until the said 13th day of April, 1764, shall be considered as one common stocke or dividend, whether any of the vessels are owned by

any of us or not to be divided by our said factors to each house of manufacturers in the following proportions. Viz.

Nicholas Brown and Co. 20 barrels out of every 100 barrels.

Thomas Robinson and Co. 13 ditto

Isaac Stelle and Co. 9 ditto

Aaron Lopez. 11 ditto

Moses Lopez. 2 ditto

Edward Langdon and Son. 4 ditto

Joseph Palmer and Co. 14 ditto

The Philadelphians. 7 ditto

Naphtali Hart and Co. 9 ditto

J. Rivera and Co. 11 ditto

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And our said Factors shall be directed under our hands to divide the headmatter caught this year in the above proportions in the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons, excepting only that our said Factors at Nantuckett be directed to keep in their own hands about four hundred bbls of the fall headmatter undivided until they know from each of our houses how much each house has had, in order to make a final division agreeable to the above proportion. But in case either of us should receive any headmatter from any other person but only from the factors aforesaid, excepting only that seventy barrels may be received by Naphtali Hart and Co from Caleb Russell of Dartmouth and thirty barrels by Rivera and Co from Jethro Haddway of Dartmouth which are to be considered as parts of their above proportions, or should offer a greater price or difference than aforesaid for headmatter: or larger commissions than aforesaid for factorage: Or should refuse or neglect to pay our said factors for the headmatter to their satisfaction. Then in either of these four cases our said factors shall divide the headmatter which would otherwise have belonged to such houses (who shall be deemed to have forfeited their shares by such dishonorable conduct) among the other houses in the aforesaid proportions near as they can.

Fifth. That we will not any of us, manufacture either in whole or in part any spermaciti for any other person, but only for ourselves respectively.

Sixth. Let our factors be directed to transmit acctts to each of our houses of the headmatter sent to each house. And of any breach of these articles, and in the month of December next they shall send compleat acctt of all the headmatter that has been sent to

each house, of all that has come to their knowledge and how it has been disposed of. They shall also engage to give us the most early notice of any attempt to set up any other spermaceti works, because the present manufacturers are more than sufficient to manufacture all that is ever caught in America. They shall have copies of these articles and shall engage under their hands to conform to the plain spirit and entention of em on their part.

Seventh. That we will meet again here at Providence the first Tuesday, February next (provided there has not in the meantime ben any manifest breech of these articles) in order to continue this union in such manner as may then be agreed upon. And we will then (each house) deliver to the chairman for the time being certificates under oath or solemn affirmation of the whole quantity of headmatter in gallons received or secured by each house, after the date hereof until each day of meeting, and of whom received.

Eighth. That Messrs John Slocum, P. Rivera, Thoms Robinson and M. Brown are hereby appointed to treat with the said factors at Newport and Nantuckett, and John Brown to treat with the said factor at Providence, and Joseph Palmer to treat with the said factor at Boston. And they are all to report their proceedings with said factors to Nicholas Brown and Co to be communicated to the other manufacturers.

In witness of our free consent to every of the foregoing articles in their most simple, plain, and obvious meaning and declaring upon our honour, that we will not in the least deviate from either of em unless by joint consent; We hereunto subscribe our names this 13 th day of April, 1763.

Palmer and Co.

Nicholas Brown and Co.

Isaac Stell and Compy, and

Rivera and Co

Aaron Lopez.

Tho Robinson and Co

Naph't Hart and Comp

Moses Lopez