

“ of our factors, when he comes to Fida, is
 “ to satisfy the customs of the king, and the
 “ great men, which amounts to about one
 “ hundred pounds, in Guinea value, as the
 “ goods must sell there. After which we
 “ have free licence to trade, which is pub-
 “ lished throughout the whole land by the
 “ cryer. And yet before we can deal with
 “ any person, we are obliged to buy the
 “ king’s whole stock of slaves, at a set price;
 “ which is commonly one third or fourth
 “ higher than ordinary. After which, we
 “ have free leave to deal with all his subjects,
 “ of what rank soever. But if there happen
 “ to be no stock of slaves, the factor must
 “ resolve to run the risk of trusting the in-
 “ habitants with goods, to the value of one
 “ or two hundred slaves; which commodi-
 “ ties they send into the inland country, in
 “ order to buy with them slaves at all mar-
 “ kets, and that sometimes two hundred
 “ miles deep in the country: for you ought
 “ to be informed, that markets of men are
 “ here kept in the same manner as they of
 “ beasts are with us.

“ Most of the slaves which are offered to
 “ us, are prisoners of war, which are sold
 “ by the victors as their booty.—When
 “ these slaves come to Fida, they are put in
 “ prisons all together; and when we treat
 “ concerning them, they are all brought out
 “ in a large plain, where, by our surgeons,
 “ whose province it is, they are thoroughly
 “ examined, even to the smallest member,
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