

68 VOYAGES FOR THE DISCOVERY

there is no doubt but he would, if possible, most carefully avoid.

On the whole, it appears then there are some accounts which have formerly been delivered as facts, there are other presumptions to support the possibility and practicability of the passage in question; there is no proof of the contrary, and therefore, notwithstanding the difficulties which have been suggested, the matter is not yet to be despaired of.

In effect, even should the attempts of Captain Clark fail, from what has been said, it still seems probable, that though accidents may defeat his purpose, the Discovery may yet be made at some more fortunate æra, when a set of men may be found, who have ability and spirit enough to proceed with the undertaking.

It would be superfluous to add any thing farther here upon the subject, while the people are waiting with anxious expectation the event
of