

very great public Advantage, as is too obvious to mention, were such Passage to be found, and navigable) laid his Thoughts before their Lordships of the *Admiralty*; and gave such plausible Reasons for the Probability of what he advanced, that after long and mature Deliberation, their Lordships determined, with two Ships, to attempt such Discovery. A very inconsiderable Expence, if weighed against the many Advantages which must have accrued to the Nation, had Success crowned the Enterprize.

I was recommended for, and induced to accept, the Command of these Ships; and, in Hopes of being serviceable to my Country, and at the same time to my Family, (for I own, I am not public-spirited enough to expose the latter to Want, for the empty Honour of having been useful to the former) left a good Employ, in which I had been long settled; by which I was enabled to provide comfortably for my Children, and which my Employers were unwilling I should give up, to proceed upon the Discovery. I acknowledge I departed with sanguine Hopes; but Experience, (though I did all that Man could do, to the best of my Knowledge, to succeed in the Enterprize), proved those Hopes were vain, as my *Vindication* in the following Sheets will evince.

As their Lordships of the *Admiralty* were so Mr. *Dobbs* ought to have been, satisfied: And, as they did not apprehend from the Public, so that Gentleman could not fear from