

them with the relation of those events which I shall enter upon immediately.

In the year 1744 I embarked aboard the prince Rupert, George Spurrel commander, bound first to Churchill-river, and afterwards to York-fort. I lived with the captain upon very good terms, and conversed freely with him about the affairs of the Hudson's-Bay Company. Speaking one day of the new association for sending ships to the Bay for the discovery of a north-west passage, he told me, that it was his opinion the Company would not have entertained me a second time, if it had not been to keep me from Mr. Dobbs. I replied, I was not sensible that I could be of any service to those gentlemen. Yes, rejoined he, you know the nature of the country, and how to lay down a fort.

THE French settlements were also a subject of our conversation; upon which occasion I expressed my surprize, that the Company did not send Englishmen up the rivers to encourage and endear the natives, and by that means put a stop to the progress of the French. The captain admitted the expediency of such a step, but urged the hazards an Englishman was exposed to, and the hardships he must suffer, in going up the rivers with goods. To this I answered, that the French came many hundred miles over land from Canada, carrying goods at their backs, and surmounting every difficulty, 'till they penetrated to the very sources of those rivers upon which we might carry up all the conveniences both for subsistence and traffic with little hazard and less toil. So far from controverting this, he said, that he believed the French would have all the country in another century: To which I could not help immediately replying, that such an alienation could only be effected thro' the remissness of the English. In all that passed between