

On the other Hand, a Project may be offered, apparently founded on such Probability, and supported by such plausible Reasons, as may induce a Ministry to take it into serious Consideration; and, after having maturely weighed the Inconveniencies on the one Hand, and possible and probable Advantages on the other, and finding the latter Scale considerably preponderate, resolve to prosecute what appear'd to them so very great an Advantage to their Country, if it answers in the Experiment: Especially, when the Expence and Hazard are inconsiderable, compared with the public Benefit, which they were induced to hope, by the Probability of what was offered. But in case Experience proves the Impossibility of succeeding, by Inconveniencies and Dangers, which could not be foreseen; and could be only discovered by such Experience; yet, both the Projector and Ministers, are so far from being liable to public Censure, that they deserve public Thanks, for attempting the Good of their Country, wherever there were solid Reasons to hope it. And neither the one nor the other will tax a People with Ingratitude, by apprehending public Reproach, for not being more than Men.

Now this latter, was in a great Measure the Case of Mr. *Dobbs*: By his reading the Accounts of former Attempts to find a North West Passage to the *Western American* Ocean, and the Probability he imagined from the Situation, the Tides, &c. of such a Passage being yet to be discovered (which must necessarily be a

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