

draining off the Land, even that might have been expected, and would have been no more than what is found in the *Baltick*, and on the West Coasts of *Africa*, after the rainy Months. In the last Place it may be proper to remark, that tho' the Tide of Flood coming from the West, would have been a direct and absolute Proof of it's being a Passage to another Sea, yet a Flood from the East, is by no means such an absolute and direct Proof to the contrary, because it is well known, that in the Straits of *Magellan*, the Tides from the two Oceans meet one another; and there is good Reason to believe, that whenever a Discovery is made of a North West Passage, the like will also be found there.

As we were now so near the *Wager*, and being absolutely certain the main Tide in the *Welcome* came from the North, the Captains were both of Opinion that it was incumbent upon them to determine what might be found there, considering the warm Dispute there had been about it, between *Arthur Dobbs*, Esq; and Capt. *Middleton*; and the great Expectations which this Dispute had raised in the World, as well as the near Relation that it had to the present Expedition; so that the neglecting it might have been looked upon as an inexcusable Omission, and the World have been still left in suspense, whether it was a Strait as the former of those Gentlemen, from various, very probable Reasons, had concluded it to be; or a fresh Water River, as it was asserted to be by the Captain.

BUT notwithstanding these pressing Reasons; and the strong Inclination every body shewed for settling this Point, it was the 29th of the Month, before we entered this Place.

WAGER-STRAIT, as it was then called, lies in the Latitude of $65^{\circ}. 33'$ North, and in the Longitude of $88^{\circ}. 00'$ West from *London*, having on the North Side of it's Entrance Cape *Montague*, and on the South Cape *Dobbs*. The narrowest Part of it is about five Leagues to the Westward of the last mentioned Cape, where it is about five miles over, or scarce so much, there the Tide runs like a Sluice: So that it may be affirmed with certainty, that at Spring-Tides it runs at the Rate of eight or nine Miles an Hour. While our Ships were in this Place, we had very little Command of them, the Current being so rapid, that the *California* was carried four or five Times round, notwithstanding the utmost Endeavours were used by those aboard her to prevent it. To say the Truth, there could not be a more surprizing Spectacle, than to see how the Water raged, foamed, boiled and whirled about as if it had been a great Torrent, broken by many Rocks, all which Appearances however seem to have no other Cause

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