

"curr'd to me that he would be a proper Person to be acquainted with." I leave any impartial Man to consider whether a Person, fond of his Scheme, who thinks he has found a proper Man to consult and give him such Lights as may enable him to bring it to Perfection, will not also naturally believe such Person more proper to conduct the Affair, than any other who can only proceed by his Instructions ; and in such Case, will not endeavour to engage him in the Undertaking ? Indeed if any one reflects on what Mr. *Dobbs* himself says ; on the many and different Steps he took ; on the Length of Time he anxiously spent to carry his Views into Execution ; on his owning, in express Terms, that he sought my Acquaintance ; on the huddled Manner in which he gives the Particulars of our first Interview, and subsequent Correspondence, will be apt to think, on such Reflection, that it is more than probable I have advanced nothing but Matter of Fact, in saying that *he made me Proposals to draw me off from the Company's Service.* It amounts almost to a Demonstration that he did so, when it is farther considered that I had been long settled in that Service, and consequently could hardly think of quitting certain Bread for a precarious Employ. Again, I believe that every unbiass'd Reader will allow it more probable, that he who had an Interest with the M-----rs, and Admiralty Board, should propose getting me a King's Ship, than that I, who had none with any of these great Men, should even dream of obtaining such a Command contrary to the known and settled Rules of the Navy.

I am the more apt to think that his Denial of these Particulars proceeds from a Defect of Memory, as he is mistaken in saying that Mr. *Allan* was with him at our first Interview ; for neither that Gentleman, of whom I asked the Question, nor I, can recollect that he was then one of the Company. Two other