

this more general trade on the Bay would naturally, without any new expence or trouble whatsoever, in a very short space of time, discover to us the so much desired North-West passage, or shew us clearly and definitely that we ought to expect no such thing. These advantages, and even yet more considerable ones, would be derived from laying open this trade, under such proper regulations as the nature of the object would point out of itself.

No colony has been hitherto attempted at Hudson's Bay. The Company has two inconsiderable forts there. The country is every where barren; to the Northward of the bay even the hardy pine tree is seen no longer, and the cold womb of the earth is incapable of any better production than some miserable shrubs. The winter reigns with an inconceivable rigour for near nine months of the year; the other three are violently hot, except when the North-West wind renews the memory of the winter. Every kind of European seed, which we have committed to the earth in this inhospitable climate, has hitherto perished; but, in all probability, we have not tried the seed of corn from the Northern parts of Sweden and Norway; in such cases, the place from whence the seed comes is of great moment. All this severity and long continuance of winter, and the barrenness of the earth which arises from thence, is experienced,