

possible these unhappy sufferers might have got safely to land, where they could have supported themselves with the ship's provisions, the sending a sloop directly in search of them might have saved their lives.

THE settlements which the French had made about the Bay were also a subject of discourse among the servants: but as no notice was then taken of the French being at the head of Nelson-river, as there is now, it is probable, that they have pushed on to Nelson-river since that time; and they will extend their settlements 'till we have not the power of dislodging them, if some speedy methods are not taken to prevent it. The Company had done many things, they observed, particularly the sending a sloop to Whale-cove, to quiet the importunities of a gentleman in London who had charged the Company with being *asleep*. Sir Biby Lake indeed, they added, had closetted this gentleman, and endeavoured to remove the charge; but they were of opinion it was too justly founded, or they would not tamely suffer the French to make such dangerous encroachments.

It was then the general opinion of the servants at the Bay, that the Company thought the discovery of a north-west passage inconsistent with their interest; and accordingly all who have attempted the making this discovery are considered by the servants as the Company's worst enemies. While I was in the Bay, the Churchill-sloop went twice or thrice to York-fort, and I heard much about Whale-cove and the sloop's having been there; particularly, that the sloop having once a hawser fastened round a large stone on the shore at low-water mark, about high water a black whale got foul of the hawser, forced it from the stones, and towed the sloop to sea. Many things were also told about the natives at Whale-cove, and of Scragg's sloop