

Albany. But this was also disused after the French had disposed them of all but Albany.

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Cortes speaks of a lead mine at Little Whale River, lead ore and isinglass in many places at Great Whale River, and fish and fowl all along James' Bay and East Main.

I submit an extract from a book called "Discovery of a North-West Passage," published in 1748. The writer was the clerk of the ship "California," which, in company with the "Dobbs Galley," was dispatched by a company of merchant adventurers from England, for the purpose of looking for a passage to the Indies by way of the Northern Seas :

[EXTRACT.]

"DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE, 1748, BY THE CLERK OF THE SHIP 'CALIFORNIA.'"

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"It commonly happens that in the month of September in passing the Straits you see little or no ice, the ice of that year being either melted or gone into the ocean, and there being no ice to come until the next Spring. Therefore it is to be questioned by some whether it would not be better to pass the Straits the latter end of April or early in May, as the Spring would be then just begun to the southward, and consequently not to the northward, for which reason less ice would be afloat, and therefore less to hinder the passage up the Strait. What is practiced by the Hudson's Bay ships is no precedent in the case; they going at a time when it most suitable with respect to their trade, which is not before the latter end of June, and their cargoes are not ready until July.

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In passing this Strait the North Shore is kept to by all ships as being clearest of ice. The currents shooting over to the south and eastward, attracted by a bay at the back of Cape Charles, and of a much larger bay mentioned to the westward of the entrance to this Strait. When they arrive at the length of Cape Charles they usually stand over to the southward, as being the nearest course to go into Hudson's Straits, not that the Strait is not equally navigable between Salisbury and Nottingham and the main land as it is to the southward. There may be also another reason besides the nearness for the going to the southward of these islands, though that is reason sufficient, which is that the channel to the northward of Nottingham lies fairer to receive