

of loss of wages and bodily correction. — And that none but plausible and insincere attempts have been made to find out a passage to the western-ocean of America; tho' the probability of there being such a passage is more and more strengthened from the late discovery of bays, inlets, and broken lands, the western ends of which are not yet discovered; and from there having been no rivers yet observed on the north-west coast.

AND what have the Company and its friends been able to advance, in opposition to these accumulated proofs of negligence and folly? Why no more than this; — “That if the country and trade “ could have been improved to the degree that “ is alleged, merely by making fresh discoveries “ and carrying on an industrious cultivation, it “ is not to be supposed that the taking such practicable steps would have been omitted by the “ Company, which without doubt is composed of “ men of experience who are wise enough to pursue their own interest.” This was the fundamental point with regard to which they ventured to cross-examine the petitioners witnesses, most of whom were men of inferior stations, unqualified to assign *the true reason, why the Company have acted so manifestly against the interest of the public, and so apparently against their own.* But the true reason is obvious: “They have had no legal right to their exclusive trade since the year “ 1698, at which time the act expired that confirmed their charter only for seven years: if, “ therefore, after this period, the least evidence “ had been suffered to transpire, that the climate “ of Hudson's-bay is very habitable; that the soil “ is rich and fruitful, fit for growing corn and “ raising stocks of cattle, and abounds also with “ valuable mines; that the fisheries are capable “ of great improvement, and the navigation not