

sible their ship and liberty were in my power, made me an offer of them. They were an agreeable present, I own ; but I insisted on my giving him 1000 peices of eight, as an equivalent. I likewise presented General *Seymour Gibbons* with a quarter cask of the best *Peru* wine, and gave 20 pieces of eight to each of his ten men, who seemed choice fellows ; and so all terminated to our mutual satisfaction.

On the 6th of *August* we left the *English*, and on the 11th, after sailing 86 leagues, a fair wind and the current brought us to the first cataraet of *Parmentiers* river ; and on the 16th I had the satisfaction to be again with my ships, which I had left at *Conasset*, on the south coast of *Belle* lake, and to find all well. The people of *Conasset* had behaved exceeding well to our people, and Captain *Ronquillo* had not been wanting in suitable returns, and kept his men in excellent discipline.

On the 20th of *August* an *Indian* brought me a letter from Captain *Bernardo*, of the 11th of *August*, informing me, that he was returned from his northern expedition, and could assure me, that there was no communication from the *Spanish* or *Atlantic* ocean, through *Davis's Streights*, the natives of the country having carried one of his sailors up to the bottom of that streight, where he saw it terminate in a fresh water lake, 30 miles in circumference, and in the 80th degree of north latitude ; that towards the north were prodigious mountains, and to the north-west of the lake, masses of ice an hundred fathom high, which may have been formed there ever since the creation of the world ; men with all their pride and conceit having but an imperfect knowledge of the works of God, especially towards the poles ; adding, that from *Basset* island he had sailed north-east, east-north-east, and north-east and by east, up to the 79th degree