

unable to refute such home Evidence, than to my real Belief of its not being genuine: That the Gunner might, while under my Command, be intimidated; and for that Reason, signed what I thought conducive to my Defence, upon an Enquiry into my Conduct; but that now all Apprehensions, which might obstruct the Truth, being removed, he had the Courage and Honesty to speak it. It is reasonable for the Public to make such Conclusions when they reflect on the *Improbability* of a Gentleman in high *Repute* for *social Virtues*, *great Learning* and *Prudence*, being guilty of a Crime so *flagrant in its Nature*, so *destructive in its Consequences*.

As the World entertains this great Opinion of Mr. *Dobbs*, they could not, on one Hand believe him a *Particeps Criminis*, an *Accomplice*; or, on the other, imagine his *Prudence* was to be *surprised*; and yet so true is the old Saying --- *The wisest Man is failable*; that here his *indfatigable Industry* to discover the *Truth*, made him overlook the *Character* given him (by his own *Friends*, Mr. *Lanrick* and *Gill*) of two of his *Witnesses*, Mr. *Wigate* and *Thompson*, who had such an Influence over him, that Mr. *Lendrick's Confirmation* of the *Frozen Strait* being as I have lain it down, was of no Weight. In his Letter dated from the *Orkneys*, Sept. 16, 1742, printed in the News-Papers, he says, " We went o'Shore to take a Survey from
" the Top of a high Mountain, when we could
" see the Sea all fastfroze in one solid Body for
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