

more than 1200 miles. Could we only be certain that Hearne and Mackenzie actually arrived at the shore of the Northern Ocean, the *existence* of a passage would amount nearly to a certainty. The solution of this important problem is the business of three months out and home. The space to be examined, at the *very utmost*, is from the 67th to the 71st parallels, or 4° of latitude!! If the continent of America shall be found to terminate, as is most likely, about the 70° of latitude, or even below it, we have little doubt of a *free and practicable passage round it, for seven or eight months* in every year; and we are much mistaken if the North-west Company would not derive immediate and incalculable advantages from a passage of *three months* to their establishments on Columbia river, instead of the circuitous voyage of six or seven months round Cape Horn; to say nothing of the benefit which might be derived from taking their cargoes of furs and peltry for the China market at Mackenzie's and Copper-mine rivers, to which the northern Indians would be *too happy* to bring them, if protected by European establishments at these, or other places, from their enemies the Esquimaux."

What flattering prospects are here held forth to the North-west Company of "incalculable advantages," and to the "northern Indians" of being made even "too happy!!" Nothing like a fear is expressed, of obstacles to be met with and surmounted. On the contrary, all is *plain sailing* through "a free and *practicable passage* for seven or eight months in every year." The language of the foregoing extracts is calculated to raise, not only the hopes, but the expectations of the public, as high as those which the writer himself no doubt indulged in, as to the success of any future attempt; provided it should be made where he recommends, *near the*

*north-east passage* been aware of the little further our adventures son's Strait, then standing tend with ice winds and clouds "would be 71° or 72°, as they saw the go far to Cape Hudson's Bay negative." His records his route through north-east passage he wrote, the son's Bay, (a or Repulse Bay says, that if should (by the way) lead That "would yet in the sea seem to doubt informs us, he (Middleton indeed very of this another "popular conclusion the question this Number