

after being loosened by the Thaw in the Rivers, August.  
on the Shoal Shores, and out of the infinite  
Number of small Bays, which are in all those  
Parts, and floated out of such Rivers, Bays, and  
off such Shores; and this Ice, so setting forward  
for the Ocean with these Currents, is what ob-  
structs the Passage up the Streights for the first  
Summer Months; not Ice generated in the  
Streights themselves, which, only the Tide con-  
sidered, would be impossible. So it commonly  
happens that in the Month of *September*, in  
passing the Streights 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 questioned by  
some, whether it would not be better to pass the  
Streights 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 Streights. What is practised by the *Hud-*  
*son Bay Ships* is no Precedent in the Case; they  
going at a Time when it is most suitable with  
respect to their Trade, which is not in before the  
latter End of *June*, and their Cargoes not ready  
until *July*; none of the Discoverers (excepting  
Mr. *Bylot*) ever entered the Streights until *June*.  
Mr. *Bylot* entered them the 17th of *May*, at  
which Time he was forced to return on account

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