

it visibly corroborates what I have already said. In the first Paragraph, I hint to him a Method to be satisfied whether the Company were really desirous of prosecuting a Discovery, he having before intimated that they trifled with him. If his Suspicion was well grounded, 'twas natural for me both to consider what Reasons they might have to be averse from making farther Search after a Passage to the Western *American* Ocean by *Hudson's Bay*, and to be upon my Guard not to disoblige them. The Reasons which occur'd to me are in the Sequel. If his Suspicion was groundless, my Caution could not turn to my Disadvantage. In the second Paragraph of the same Letter, I say, "For my own Part, I confess I should be ambitious of attaining the Honour of such a Discovery, and should hope much that Success would crown the Undertaking. But as I have a certain Income from the Company as long as I am able to go that Voyage, it would not be prudent in me to quit their Employment upon an Uncertainty ; and if they should come to the Knowledge of my having any Intention of accepting such an Offer, I have too much Reason to apprehend they would immediately discard me ; so that what I now write, being unknown to them, I rely on your Honour, will not be divulged to my Prejudice. In short, I believe the Company think it their Interest rather to prevent than to forward new Discoveries in that Part of the World ; and for that Reason they will not suffer any of our Journals to be made Public."

This Paragraph confirms what I have before averred, that I insisted on Terms ; and, my so doing, is a Demonstration that Mr. *Dobbs* had made me Proposals to quit the Company's Service ; for he who solicits an Employ, was I believe, never known to impose his own Terms,

I shall