

In order to do this in the most concise Manner, I must follow Captain *Middleton*, in any Points material to the Discovery, Paragraph by Paragraph; and at the same Time answer such Insinuations and Charges he is pleas'd to bring against me by way of Recrimination. for attempting to scrutinize into his Conduct, referring to the Pages in his printed Defence.

In his Letter to their Lordships, introducing his Defence, he says, *Mr. Dobbs has cast his Reflexions together in so confused and incoherent a Manner, without Order or Method, that he was at a Loss how he might make his Answers clear and distinct; and at last had no other Way but to answer Paragraph by Paragraph, and where he met Repetitions to refer back to his Answers.*

The Occasion of this was, that the Paper he answered, was not intended to be given him, until he had answered and disproved the several Queries referred to him by the Lords of the Admiralty, which had been already answered by the *Lieutenant, Master, Surgeon, and Clerk*; and after he had given in his Answer to them, which were the chief Things objected to in his Conduct, they were to consider whether he had fully answered to the Charge supported by their Answers; for as to his having been actually corrupted by the *Hudson's Bay Company*, that could only have been collected from *his Omissions and Neglects* upon the Discovery, and upon the Proof, whether he had been guilty of Fraud in laying down *Charts* with false Currents or Tides, making *Streights* where there were none, or *Rivers* where *Streights*, and making *main Land* where there was no Proof of it, but the strongest Presumptions to the contrary. Having left this Paper in the Admiralty as further Reasons of my own, but not then given as a Charge against him, a noble Lord saying, that in this Paper there was a Charge, insinuating,
that