

on the Reports of others, but were grounded chiefly upon his own Experience; yet it may be fairly alledged in his Excuse, that as he found his Character publickly attacked, it was very natural for him to defend himself by any Arguments, and any Means that lay in his way. I do not take upon myself to decide in this Controversy, I only deliver Things as they appear to me; and at the same time that I give my Opinion, I give also the Evidence upon which it is founded, and leave the whole to the Determination of the Reader. Neither should I have meddled with this Matter at all, but that it relates immediately to my Subject, and is of great Importance, not only to the thorough understanding the Design and Issue of this Expedition, but all future Expeditions in view to this Discovery. Since if all Errors, however they may arise, be not detected and removed, so that those who in succeeding Times shall be employed in such Undertaking, may have the full Benefit of former Experience, this Discovery of so great Consequence to the *British* Nation, may be much longer delayed than otherwise it need be, and therefore the Publick has a Right to expect the greatest Accuracy and Preciseness in all Narrations of this Nature.

ON the 15th of *August*, we weighed from *Douglas Harbour* in Company with the *California*, with a strong but fair Wind, attended with some Squalls. We were met in the *Narrows* entering the *Wager* by a Flood Tide, which detained us several Hours, though we went at the rate of more than eight Knots through the Water. When we were got into the *Welcome*, the Wind continuing still fresh, we lay too. On the 17th the Weather being very fair and moderate, and the Sky clear, it was proposed that as we lay within three or four Leagues of the *Low Breach*, we should go thither to try the Tide, agreeable to the last Resolution of Council; to the general Scheme and Intention of the Voyage, and to the particular Articles upon this Head, which the Gentlemen of the North West Committee thought fit to insert in our Instructions.

ACCORDINGLY in the Evening, I went with our second Mate Mr. *Metcalfe* for that Purpose, but before we could reach the Shore it was dark, and also a little after High Water, so that we were under the Necessity of staying till it was High Water again, in order to execute our Commission with Certainty. In the mean time, the Ship lay too in the *Offing*, and fired Guns every half Hour, but either the Wind or the Ebb Tide driving her several Leagues to the Northward, she

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