

afford us still fairer, and more rational Hopes. These Things I premise, that it may not be thought any Effect of Prepossession, or of Confidence, that I presume to take Notice of two Places, in each of which, I think, a Passage may be sought upon very rational Grounds, and with very good Effects.

IN the first Place, I must observe, that from the Report made of a considerable Inlet in the Latitude of 64° . which I called *Chesterfield's Inlet*, I have been induced to have very great Expectations. Those who searched it affirmed, that the Ebb run very strong from the Westward for eight Hours; whereas it ran up but two; and with a Motion incomparably slower. They likewise affirmed, that at the Distance of ninety Miles from the Entrance, the Water, tho' fresher than the Ocean, had yet a very strong Degree of Saltness; now if there was no Passage, and the Water ran down eight Hours, at the Rate of six Miles an Hour; and ran up only two Hours, at the Rate of two Miles an Hour, the Water ought to have been perfectly fresh; since as no Salt Water went up for more than two Hours, none ought to have come down after two Hours Ebb, even if the Ebb had been as slow as the Flood; but as it was much more rapid, it ought to have been fresh sooner. It is certain, that if a Tide of Flood had been met coming from the Westward, it would have afforded an incontestable Proof of a Passage; yet the Tide from the Eastward, does not prove the contrary; since in the *Magellan Straits*, as the accurate Sir *John Narborough* tell us, the Tide flows half way up from the Eastward, and is there met by a Flood from the West or pacific Ocean. I might add many other Reasons, to shew the Probability of a Passage here; but I wave them to avoid laying a Foundation for new Disputes, which, after all that can be said about it, must be left to the Determination of another Tryal, under the Direction of Men, skilful in Navigation, careful in their Observations, and attentive to the Lights, that may be derived to them from Remarks made upon the Spot, which must enable them either to find what they seek, or to account for these Appearances without a Passage; which in itself would be a very singular Discovery, and one from whence many Advantages might be derived by correcting those Notions that have been long, and are still generally, entertained of these Matters.

THE other Place I would mention, is *Repulse-Bay*; and the Reasons that may excite the Hopes of a Passage here, are those that have been so often mentioned; that is, the Depth, Saltness and Transparency of the Water, together with the Height of the Tide; propagated from thence; all which are Circumstances