

North-East Parts nion, as indeed who not? neither believing that *Plinie* or any other of the *Roman* writers came hither to describe this Promontory: or that the *Oxford Friar*, without the assistance of some cold *Devil* of the middle Region of the Air (and consequently able to endure all weathers) could approach to near as to measure these cold Countries with his *Astrolabe*; or take the height of this *Black Rock* with his *Jacobs Staff*. Leaving this therefore as more fit for *Lucians Dialogues*, than any serious discourse, we will proceed to matters of more truth and certainty.

2. The **NORTHWEST PARTS** of *Terra Incognita Borealis*, are those which lie on the back of *Esotiland*, the most Northern Province of *America*: by which it hath been much endeavour'd to find out a passage to *Cathay* and *China*, and not to goe so far about as either by the Cape of *Good Hope*, or the *Straits of Magellan*. Attempted first by *Sebastian Cabot*, *An. 1497*, at the charge of *Henry the 7th of England*. But having discovered as far as to the 67 Degree of Northern Latitude, by the mutinie of his Mariners he was forced to return; where finding great preparations for a War with *Scotland*, that business for the present was laid aside. Returned by *Jasper Corteriglis*, a *Portingale*, *An. 1500*, and afterwards by *Stephen Gomez*, a *Spaniard*, in the year 1525, but neither of them went so far to the North as *Cabot*. The *Spaniards* notwithstanding would not give over, but first with 5 ships from the *Groyne*, and afterwards by two from *New Spain*, sent out by *Cortez*, pursued the enterprize, which proving as successful as the former had been, occasioned *Charles the 5th*, then preparing for *Italie*, on the payment of 35000 Ducats by King *John the third*, to suspend the prosecution of it. Followed with greater indutry, but as bad success by Sir *Martin Frobisher*, who made three Voyages for these parts (the first of them in the year 1579) and brought home some of the *Narves*, a Sea Unicorn horn (still kept in the great Wardrobe of *Windsor Castle*) and a great deal of the Ore of that Country, found in on trial, when in *England*, not to quit the coil. A great Promontory which he passed by, he called *Queen Elizabeths Fort Land*, in whole name he took possession of it; and the Sea running not far off, he called *Frobishers Streights*. The Seas full set with Icy Islands, some of them half a mile about, and 80 Fathoms above water, the people like the *Samoeds*, the worst kind of *Tartars*, in their lives and habit. *John Davies* followed the design, *An. 1585*, at the encouragement of Sir *Francis Walsingham*, then principal Secretary of *State*; and having in 3 Voyages discovered to the Latitude of 73, by reason of the many difficulties which he found in the enterprize, and the death of Mr. Secretary, he was fain to give over; leaving unto a narrow Sea on the North of *Esotiland*, the name of *Fretum Davies*, in the Latitude of 65 and 20 Minutes, by which name it still called. After him followed *Weymouth, Hall, Hudson, Eaton, Bassin, Smith*, all *English*. The result of whole endeavours was the finding of some cold Isles and points of Land, which they named King *James* his Cape, *Queen Anns Cape*, *Prince Henriets Foreland*, *Saddles Island*, *Barren Island*, *Red-gagge Island*, *Diggs his Island*; all of them betwixt 80, and 81. and the imposing on some passages and parts of the Sea, the names of *Hackluys Headlands*, *Smiths Bay*, *Hudsons Streights*, *Maudslins Sound*, *Fair Haven*, and the like marks and monuments of their undertakings. Nothing achieved of publick moment but the Discovery of an Island called *Cherry Island* in the Latitude of 74, and the shores of a large piece of the Continent, which they cauled to be called King *James* his New Land, most commonly, *Greenland*; where they found many white Bears, with white, grey, and dun oxes, Partridges, Geese, and some other Provisions, Sea Unicorns Horns, great store of *Morses*, (or Sea-horses) the Oyl and Teeth whereof yeeld no small commodity. But most considerable for the Trade of *Whale-fishing*, which our men use yearly upon those Coasts; of whose Oyl, Bones, and Brain (this last supposed to be the true *Sperma Ceti*, now used as *Medicinal*) they raise very great profit.

3. The **NORTHEAST PARTS** of *Terra Incognita Borealis*, are those which lie on the North of *Russia* and *Tartaria*; by which the like passage towards *Cathay* and *China* hath been oft attempted; and hitherto with like success. Endeavour'd first by *Sebastian Cabot*, the son of *John Cabot*, so often mentioned before, by whom trained up in the Discovery of the North-east parts of *America*. His employment failing here in *England*, he betook himself unto the service of the King of *Spain*; and coming out of *Spain*, *An. 1549* was by King *Edward* the sixth made *Grand Pilot of England*, with an Annual Pension of 166 l. 13 s. 4 d. In the year 1553 he was the chief Dealer and Procter of the Discovery of *Russia*, and the *North-East Voyages*, undertaken and performed by Sir *Hugh Willoughby*, *Chancellour*, *Burroughs*, *Jenkinson*, and after prosecuted by *Pet* and *Jackman*. Some of which perished in the Action, and were frozen to death; their ship being found the next year hemmed about with ice, and a particular account of all things which had hapned to them. Others with better fortunes found the way to *Russia* (since that time made a common voyage, without dread or danger) and palling down the *Volga* to the *Caspian Sea*, and by that to *Persia*, were kindly entertained in the Court of the *Sophie*. The *Hollanders* in the year 1594, and in some years after, tried their Fortune also, under the conduct and direction of one *William Barendson*, their chief Pilot; but went no further than the *English* had gon before them: yet gave new names unto all places as they passed, as if they had been the first Discoverers; with pride and arrogance enough. Nothing since done of any note or consideration for the opening of this North-east passage, or giving us any better account of the North of *Tartarie*; or any Countries beyond that; but what we had many ages since out of *Pautus Venetus*; so that we are but where we were, in a *Terra Incognita*. And though I would not willingly discourage any noble Actions, or brave and gallant undertakings; yet when I look upon the natures of those Shores and Seas, those tedious winters of ten moneths, with no Summer following; the winds continually in the North, and the *Main Ocean* paved with Ice so long together: I cannot choofe but rank the hopes of these Northern Passages amongst those Adventures which are only commendable for the difficulties presented in them.