

I say, that even for so small a sum, a good fort might have been erected, capable of securing the subjects and the trade of Britain from the attacks and incroachments of her worst enemies.

WE sailed out of Churchill-river, and soon arrived at York-fort upon Hayes's-river, where the ship was to deliver her cargo and take in another. After her departure for England, I applied myself to the setting up beacons in order to make a chart of the river. The governor, who had resided in the country twenty years, was perfect master of the traditional history of it, even from the first settlement of the English; and being a free and communicative man, he used frequently to entertain us with a regular account of all the principal events and discoveries; to which the linguists seldom failed to add the information they had gathered from the natives. By their means I soon obtained a general knowledge of the country, as well inland as upon the coasts.

WHEN the season approached for going abroad, I mentioned to the governor a design I had long entertained of travelling up the country, not only to confirm what I had heard, but to make new discoveries. This brought on dismal tales of the difficulties to be encountered in such an expedition: and when I talked of going up the rivers, I was told of stupendous heaps of ice and dreadful waterfalls, which would not only obstruct my passage, but endanger my life. To confirm this he said, that governor MacLish, in company with him and one or two more, once attempted to go a little way up Nelson-river to look for timber, in order to build a factory: that when they had crossed the island, they found such heaps of ice in the river, that they were discouraged from proceeding any higher: the governor, therefore, returned, saying it was so fatiguing and dangerous, that he