

ed to be warped by the Share they had in those Disappointments.

I WILL give but one Instance, and that only, because it seems to be in a great Measure parallel to this. There were Hopes long entertained of finding a Passage into the *South-Seas*, by advancing along the Coasts of *Brazil*, and so to the Countries beyond the River of *Plate*; and various Trials were made with this View, 'till at length *Americus Vespucius*, (from whom the new World has received its Name) and who without doubt was both an able Seaman, and an excellent Cosmographer, was sent into these Parts, and he advanced very far to the South, even to the Height, as some say of fifty two Degrees, but discovering no Passage, he concluded there could be none; which however was disproved by *Ferdinand Magellan*, who discovered and passed those Straits which very deservedly bear his Name, and will preserve his Memory as long as the World lasts. When these Straits were discovered, it was taken for granted, that they were the only Passage into the *South-Seas*, and therefore the King of *Spain* intended to have built a City, and a Fortrefs in them, to prevent other Nations from passing by that new Course to the *East-Indies*. The *Dutch* however discovered the Vanity of this, by finding a Passage round *Cape Horn*; which shews, that after many fruitless Attempts, not one Passage only, but many may be discovered, which very possibly may prove the Case in *Hudson's-Bay*, since some very probable Conjectures might be offered, that there may be several Passages, communicating with each other. And Capt. *Fox* long ago suggested, that there might be even an open Sea as at *Cape Finmarke*; nor has this hitherto been disproved.

AFTER what has been said, it cannot be expected that I should enter, with any Degree of Positiveness, into assigning the Place where any Passage is to be found; and I dare say the Reader would not form a better Notion of my Judgment, from my insisting peremptorily upon such a Thing, because in Matters of this Nature, the wisest and most knowing Men may be deceived, and some very sensible and sagacious Persons have been somewhat mistaken about it already; it may therefore be thought sufficient for me to point out, from my own Experience, what induces me to believe, that such a Passage there is; and to offer my Conjectures, as to the Places where, with some Probability, it may be sought, tho' very possible another Voyage may discover the Passage elsewhere, or at least Places not hitherto examined; which may

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