

stance worth attending to. May we not conclude from hence, that when the sea retired from the land, the fish were left in the *valley* which formed this lake, and as it would be a long while before it became quite fresh, the succeeding fry might become habituated to an element, in which they would have perished had not the change been gradually effected?

CONCLUSION.

This change, which has in all probability taken place even lately in those parts, might have effaced some vestiges of De Fonte's track; but I think it may be concluded from a review of the preceding pages, that there was a passage, such as he describes, between Hudson's Bay and the Pacific Ocean, the rediscovery of which appears to afford great prospect of advantage to the commerce of this country. Perhaps the best way to effect this object would be, to offer a premium in such manner, and under such regulations, as I have proposed in respect to the Strait of Anian; as it is very evident had Mr. Duncan, when in the Archipelago of St. Lazarus in 1787, been certain of a reward, he would have prosecuted a discovery, which the commercial interests of his owners alone obliged him to acquit.

F I N I S.