

The Reason of my having required Secrecy, is this ; I had Grounds to believe that my complying with the Promise which I had given Mr. *Dobbs* would be no ways obliging the Company, they would be as well pleased, if no farther Mention was made of that Affair ; and on the other hand, I had engaged my Word to that Gentleman, and was therefore under this Dilemma, either to act contrary to the Inclinations of my Employers, or to break my Word, to which every honest Man will have a tender Regard. Had I designed, in a clandestine Manner, to injure the Company, I should hardly have been weak enough to have shewn Mr. *Dobbs's* Letter, told the Offers made me, and the Terms I insisted on, to Sir *Bibb*, who thought the latter not exorbitant ; and had I not thought myself under an Obligation to keep my Word, given to Mr. *Dobbs*, as I believed then and still do, that the Discovery of a Passage can no way hurt the Company's Interest, I should have dropt the Correspondence. Wherefore to be just to my Promise and not disoblige my Employers, I gave Mr. *Dobbs* a Handle, which he has made use of, how generously, let the World judge, to tax me with betraying the Company. He appeals to my Letter, N<sup>o</sup> 8. in his Appendix, to support this Charge. When that worthy Gentleman is less disturbed with Anger than he seems to have been when he wrote, he will think that Appeal no way to his Credit ; it shews I thought him a Man of Honour, but transported by his Passion, he is resolved to give the World a convincing Proof that I am a very ill Judge of Men.

Mr. *Dobbs* is so very immethodical in his Remarks upon my Defence, with which he has obliged the Public, that could I persuade myself he could coolly mention the Discovery of a Passage, I should be apt to think his Ramblings and Repetitions in that Pamphlet, the Effect of Art to puzzle and deter me from