

I shall always own myself obliged to you for the Favour you have done me, and wish you Health and Prosperity, &c.

Sir Bihye's Letter and this Answer I sent a Copy of to Captain Middleton; but before he received it he sent me an Answer to my former Letter in the following Words :

Nº. VIII.

SIR,

London, Jan. 21, 1737.

I Have the Honour of yours of the 20th of November, and am sorry that it is not in my Power to answer your Request, of giving you a more particular Account from the Journals of those who were sent last Year upon the Discovery; the Company alone can give you that Satisfaction, and no doubt will transmit them to you, by which you will be able to judge of the Skill and Conduct of those who were employed in that Affair, and may also form some Judgment, whether the Company are desirous of prosecuting it in earnest.

However, it is my Opinion, that nothing will be done in it to any Purpose, unless the Government will give a sufficient Encouragement to some Persons of known Abilities to undertake it, and then I should not despair but the whole might be accomplished by passing two whole Winters at *Churchill*, and proceeding on the Discovery with Resolution during the Summer: For my own Part, I confess I should be ambitious of attaining the Honour of such a Discovery, and should hope very much that Success would crown the Undertaking; but as I have a certain Income from the Company, as long as I am able to go that Voyage, it would not be prudent in me to quit their Employment upon an Uncertainty; and if they should come to

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