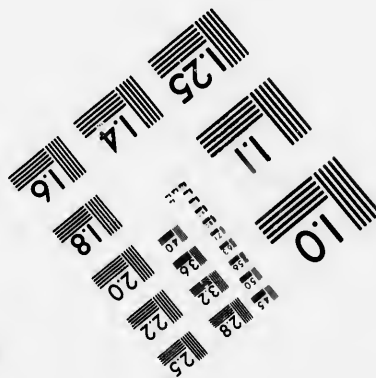
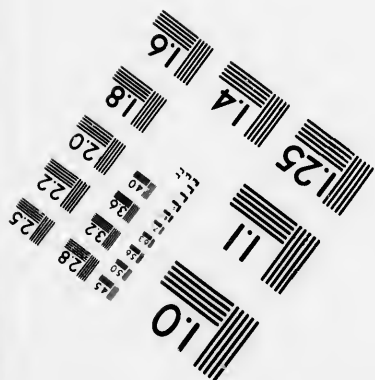
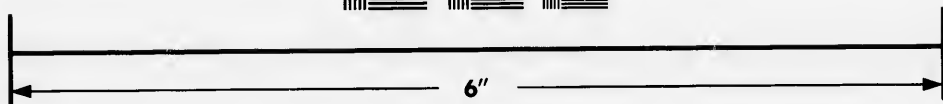
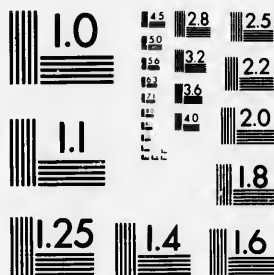


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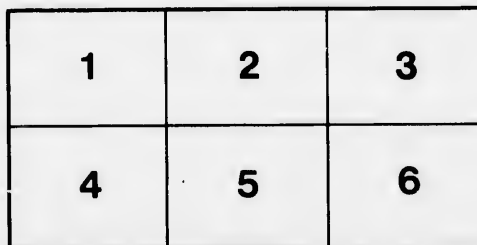
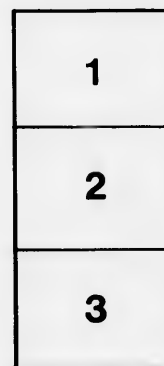
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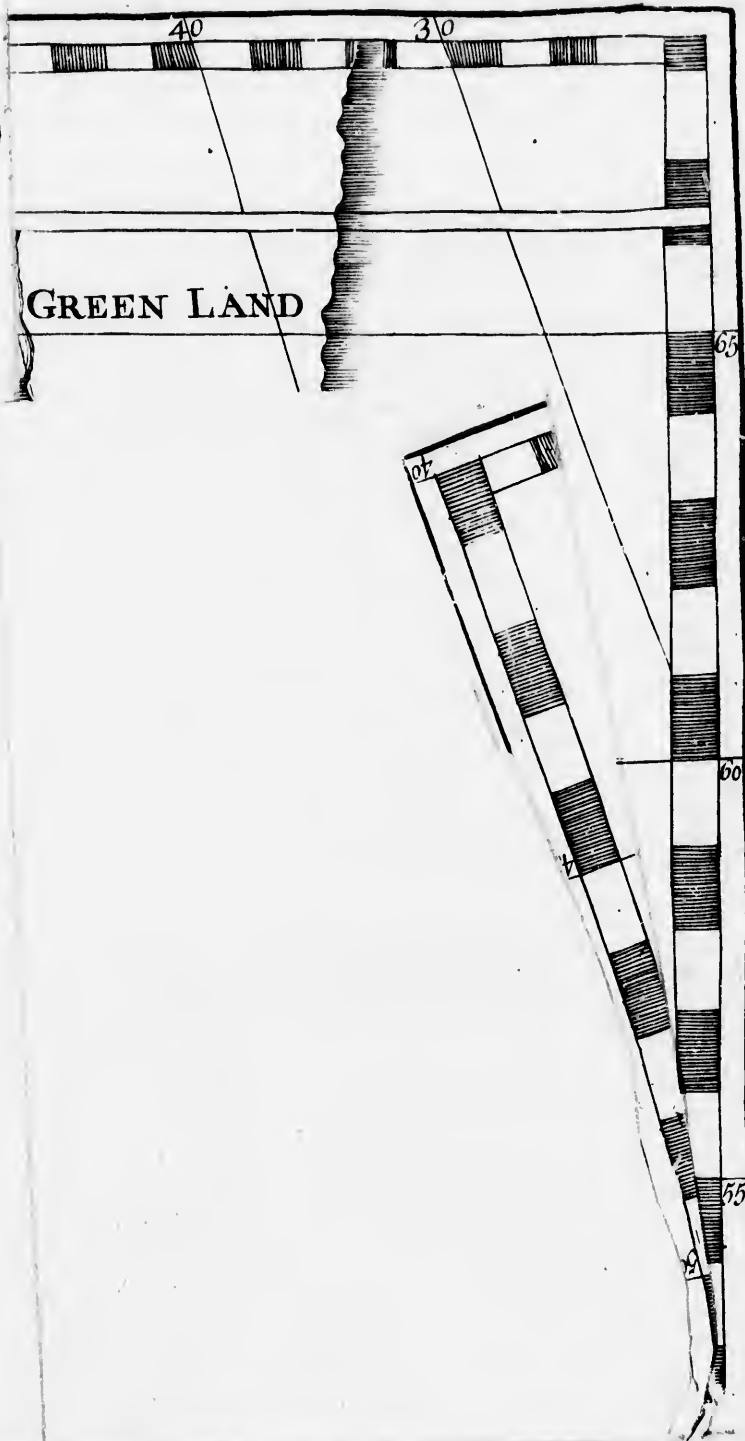












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# R E M A R K S

U P O N

Capt. *Middleton's* D E F E N C E :

W H E R E I N

H I S C O N D U C T during his late V O Y A G E

For discovering a Passage from

*HUDSON'S-BAY* to the *SOUTH-SEA*

is impartially examin'd, &c.



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*1744*

# R E M A R K S

U P O N     *S. A. I. A. I. D.*

**Capt. Middleton's DEFENCE :**

W H E R E I N

His CONDUCT during his late VOYAGE

For discovering a Passage from

*HUDSON's-BAY* to the *SOUTH-SEA*  
is impartially EXAMIN'D ;

His NEGLECTS and OMISSIONS in that Affair  
fully Prov'd ;

The FALSITIES and EVASIONS in his DEFENCE  
Expos'd ;

*The ERRORS of his CHARTS laid open,*

A N D

His ACCOUNTS of CURRENTS, STREIGHTS,  
and RIVERS, Confuted ;

Whereby it will appear, with the highest Probability,

*That there is such a PASSAGE as he went in search of.*

W I T H

An APPENDIX of ORIGINAL PAPERS,  
and a MAP of the In-land and Sea-Coast of  
*North-America* in and about *Hudson's Bay*.

---

By *ARTHUR DOBBS*, Esq;

---

L O N D O N :

Printed by the AUTHOR's Appointment, and  
Sold by JACOB ROBINSON, at the *Golden Lion*  
in *Ludgate-street*, MDCCLIV.

*1744*

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TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE THE  
LORDS COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
Admiralty of *Great Britain.*

*My* LORDS,

**T**HE Favour you did me in communicating the Defence Captain *Middleton* published against the Queries and Objections I laid before Your Lordships to his Conduct in the Voyage to *Hudson's Bay*, in Search of a Passage from thence into the Western Ocean of *America*, and the Honour done me by Your so readily examining into his Conduct, and hearing the Proofs I brought to support my Charge against him, lay me under particular Obligations to Your Lordships. These, together with the  
\* Duty

D E D I C A T I O N.

Duty I owe the Public as a Member of Society, indispenfibly obliges me to fcruutinize ftrictly into his Conduct, and examine into the Nature and Weight of his Defence.

I beg leave therefore to lay before Your Lordfhips thefe R E M A R K S upon his written Defence (which Your Lordfhips favoured me with the Perufal of) by which, I am perfuaded, you will find that his Defence is only made up of Falfties and Evasions, artfully blended together to difguife the Truth; and that all I have given in Charge againft him is fully proved, from his Original Log-book in the *Furnace*, from his Journal, the Evidence of his Officers and People, and from his own original Letters; whereby it will evidently appear, that he has wilfully mifbehaved, by neglecting to look into thofe Places where he had Reason to expect a Passage, by falftifying

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## DEDICATION.

ing Facts, by making Currents and Tides contrary to Truth, and by forging a large Frozen Streight to bring in a Tide and Whales, in order to support the Scheme he had laid to conceal the Passage: And that, to induce Your Lordships to believe that he has followed his Instructions, he has made fresh Water Rivers and a continuous Coast or Continent, where there are noble Straits and Inlets, with salt Water Passages, and nothing but breken Land and Islands.

I submit the Whole to Your Lordships Consideration, and am, with the highest Respect,

*My LORDS,*

*Your Lordships*

*Most Obedient, and*

*Most humble Servant,*

ARTHUR DOBBS.



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T H E  
P R E F A C E.

**C**APTAIN Middleton having been appointed, at my Instance and Recommendation, Commander of the Furnace, upon the late Attempt to discover the North-west Passage to the Western Ocean of America, and having disguised and concealed from me, upon his Return, many material Circumstances of the Discovery, and mentioned several Things as Facts concerning Currents, Streights, Rivers, &c. which appeared to me in a quite different Light when I had perused his Journal, he affirming large Streights to be fresh Water Rivers, and broken Coasts to the main Land, in his Letters, and that he had searched narrowly the whole Coast, which afterwards

## P R E F A C E.

wards, by his Journal, I found he had not searched at all, but passed great Part of it in the Night, and was at a great Distance from it in the Day-time, only standing in with some of the Head-lands, which were known to be Islands by others who were there before him: And afterwards finding by some Gentlemen who had been the Voyage with him, that he had disguised his Charts and Currents, in order to stifle the Discovery, I thought it my Duty to scrutinize into his Behaviour, and therefore gave in a Set of Queries against his Conduct to the Lords of the Admiralty, to be answered by several of his Officers; and those Queries, with the Answers to them, were given to him by their Lordships, in order to his answering them, and making his Defence.

Captain Middleton accordingly has made the best Defence in his Power to the Charge laid against him, and has appealed to the Publick, by printing his Defence; wherein he has advanced many Falsities, false Reasonings, Evasions, and intimidating Accounts, to prevent any farther Attempt. He has likewise published several Letters which I wrote to him, in order to support his Allegations, as far as he could, from them, and also some of his to me, tho' very incorrectly, having altered part, and omitted a whole Paragraph

## P R E F A C E.

*graph in his last Letter to me; he has also charged me with endeavouring to intice him to quit the Hudson's Bay Service, and making him great Professions and Promises of procuring him royal Grants of such Lands as he should discover, whilst, at the same time, he says, he discouraged me all along from undertaking the Discovery, but could not prevail upon me to desist. This false and unfair Treatment obliges me to publish all our Correspondence from his original Letters to me, and the rough Draughts of all my Letters to him which I had by me. This the impartial Reader, I hope, will not only think proper, but necessary, for me to do in my own Defence, in order to shew the Falseness of his Insinuations, that I had, by artful Promises, got him to quit the Hudson's Bay Service, and that I have since treated him incandily, in endeavouring to scrutinize into his Conduct. I am confident it won't be deemed a Breach of Promise, that I publish his Correspondence with me, he having desired me not to publish his corresponding with me, and what Informations he gave, whilst he continued in the Company's Service, to his Prejudice, which I promised him I would not, and punctually performed it, until now, that he has partially published part, and laid me under a Necessity, in my own Defence, from his Charge against me, to publish the whole,*

*by*

## P R E F A C E.

*by which it will appear that I did not press him to quit the Company's Service, but that he intrusted me to get him employed, and that he always gave me the greatest Encouragement to attempt the Discovery: This I thought proper to premise, that the Reader may see, that my publishing his Correspondence has been forced upon me by Captain Middleton, and was not originally intended by me.*



REMARKS

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# REMARKS

UPON

Captain *MIDDLETON*'s

ANSWER, &c.

**C**APTAIN *Middleton* having appealed to the Public, by publishing his Defence to the Objections made to his Conduct in his Voyage to find out a Passage Northwest, puts me under a Necessity of taking the same Method by publishing Remarks upon his Defence, that the Falsities, false Reasonings, and Evasions, which make up the Bulk of his Defence, may not be imposed upon the Public for Truth; nor his intimidating Accounts deter or prevent the Government from perfecting a Discovery of so beneficial a Passage to the Western Ocean of *America*, which, I may say, is now laid open to the View, and only wants its being prosecuted to be thoroughly known.

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MARKS

In order to do this in the most concise Manner, I must follow Captain *Middleton*, in any Points material to the Discovery, Paragraph by Paragraph; and at the same Time answer such Insinuations and Charges he is pleas'd to bring against me by way of Recrimination. for attempting to scrutinize into his Conduct, referring to the Pages in his printed Defence.

In his Letter to their Lordships, introducing his Defence, he says, *Mr. Dobbs has cast his Reflexions together in so confused and incoherent a Manner, without Order or Method, that he was at a Loss how he might make his Answers clear and distinct; and at last had no other Way but to answer Paragraph by Paragraph, and where he met Repetitions to refer back to his Answers.*

The Occasion of this was, that the Paper he answered, was not intended to be given him, until he had answered and disproved the several Queries referred to him by the Lords of the Admiralty, which had been already answered by the *Lieutenant, Master, Surgeon, and Clerk*; and after he had given in his Answer to them, which were the chief Things objected to in his Conduct, they were to consider whether he had fully answered to the Charge supported by their Answers; for as to his having been actually corrupted by the *Hudson's Bay Company*, that could only have been collected from *his Omissions and Neglects* upon the Discovery, and upon the Proof, whether he had been guilty of Fraud in laying down *Charts* with false Currents or Tides, making *Streights* where there were none, or *Rivers* where *Streights*, and making *main Land* where there was no Proof of it, but the strongest Presumptions to the contrary. Having left this Paper in the Admiralty as further Reasons of my own, but not then given as a Charge against him, a noble Lord saying, that in this Paper there was a Charge, insinuating,  
that

that he had been corrupted by the Company; he desired that this Paper (he has taken upon him to answer, instead of the Queries) should also be given to him, which was complied with, and so by his replying to this Paragraph by Paragraph, instead of the Queries, has made his Answer or Defence run out into an unusual Length; but this was his own Choice, in order to make his Answer the more incoherent and evasive.

However, since he has chose this Method, and this Paper, to answer instead of the other, I will observe upon him, in his own Way, and shall also give a short History of our Correspondence since our first Acquaintance, supported by his own Letters to me, which will shew him in a quite contrary Light than he appears in by his own Account, and make it evident, that I did not intice him to leave the Company, but that it was his own Election, and that he rather pers'd me to get him employ'd, *desiring me to keep it secret until he was sure of being employed*, which I accordingly did. And to shew the several Steps I have taken in prosecuting this Discovery, and the Attendance, Trouble and Delays, I have met with from the Company, I must begin my Account earlier than my Acquaintance with Captain *Middleton*.

After having drawn up an Abstract of all the Voyages I had seen relating to the Discovery of a Passage to the North-west Ocean of *America*, I, by way of Letter, laid it before Colonel *Bladen*, with an Intention, at that Time, to have gotten the *South-Sea* Company, who were engaged in the Whale Fishery in *Davis's* Streights, to have tried the Fishery at the *Welcome*; and by that Means they would have been able either to have found a Passage, if there was any, and to have confirmed or contradicted the Accounts given by *Fox* of his own and *Button's* Observations at *Ne Ultra*



or the *Welcome*; this was in 1730-1. I had then Hopes of getting this attempted in the manner I mention, not then knowing the Power and Privileges granted to the *Hudson's Bay Company*. But soon after Sir *John Eyles* being out of the Government of the Company and they having been Losers by the *Whale* *Enterprise*, quitted it, and all lay by until some Business called me to *England* in 1733. I carried over a Copy of my Reasons for the Probability of a Passage, and gave it to Sir *Charles Wager* to consider of; who after reading it, and giving it to some others to peruse, they all own'd there were strong Presumptions, and it might be proper to make another Attempt. Soon after Sir *Charles* met Mr. *Jones*, (who was Deputy-Governor of the *Hudson's Bay Company*, and an elder Brother of the *Trinity-house*) at *Deptford*, and mentioned it to him, who discouraged him all he could from attempting it; telling him that the Company had sent out two Ships under one *Barlow* or *Knight* in 1719, to search for the Passage, and fitted them out at a considerable Expence, and that they were never afterwards heard of; that upon sending out a Sloop a Year or two after to make an Enquiry after them, they in about 62 Deg. saw some carv'd Work of a Ship, which they believed to be one of their Ships; but never heard more of them.

Upon Sir *Charles's* acquainting me with this, I desired he would introduce me by a Letter to that Gentleman: For if he could satisfy me that it was impracticable from the Sloop's Journal, I would never desire him to embark in any unreasonable Attempt. Upon which he wrote to him that I would meet him at the *Trinity-house*, to get farther Information from him. I accordingly went, but missing him there, found he was gone to the *London-Assurance Office*; so I went there and sent in my Name.

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Upon which he came out, and talk'd over the Af-  
 fair with me, telling me of the great Expence and  
 Loss they had been at; and that the Sloop sent to  
 know what was become of them, found, by a Piece  
 of the Ship's Stern, that they had been lost or sur-  
 priz'd by the Natives, and the Ships broke up. I  
 desired to see the Sloop's Journal, that I might  
 judge from their Observations upon the Tides, &c.  
 whether the former Journals were true, and from  
 thence form a Judgment of the Passage. He told  
 me they had kept no regular Journal, and could  
 give me no farther Account of it. I told him from  
 that Account I could not be satisfied whether there  
 was a Passage or not. I could only find that they  
 had a considerable Loss in losing those two Ships;  
 but for any Thing they knew, the Ships might  
 have made their Passage, or at least one of them,  
 and by some Accident might have been afterwards  
 lost; and the Wreck they saw might as well be  
 after the Ship's Return, as before they got into the  
 Passage: For if they had been lost in the Bay, it  
 was probable some of them might have reach'd  
*Cchurchill* Factory. All he answered to that was, he  
 was sure there was no Passage, otherwise they would  
 have found it out long ago. I told him, if that  
 was all the Satisfaction he could give me upon it,  
 I had no more to say; and thus we parted. And  
 upon acquainting Sir *Charles* with what had pass'd,  
 He said he believ'd the Persons sent in the Sloop  
 were no ways qualified for proper Observations.

Finding no Satisfaction from this Interview, I  
 considered what Step I should next take for better  
 Information; and having not before heard of any  
 late Attempt to discover the Passage, and not then  
 apprehending that the Company were averse to the  
 Discovery, I thought I might discover more of that  
 Attempt of *Barlow's* from some of the Company's  
 Captains trading in the Bay; but this being in  
 Summer,

Summer, when they were all upon the Voyage, and my Affairs calling me to *Ireland*, I took no further Steps in it till Spring 1734-5, when Business call'd me again to *London*. I then considering that the Company had a Charter from the Crown, it might be improper to embark the Public in an Attempt to discover a Passage and Trade, which might perhaps redound only to the Advantage of the *Hudson's Bay* Company; I therefore desired Col. *Bladen* to allow me to peruse their Charter in the Plantation-Office, that I might know their Right and Power, and judge whether it was proper to embark them or the Public in the Attempt. This he readily complied with; and I, upon Perusal of the Charter, found by that they were invested with vast Powers and Privileges; and, as far as a Charter could grant it, with a Monopoly of all the Trade not only in the Bay, but in all the Countries they should discover thro' the Passage, not possess'd by any Christian Power, with the Property of all the Lands and Rights of Sovereignty, as making Peace or War, raising Troops and fitting out Ships of War, Forts, &c. to maintain their Possessions. These Powers and Privileges surprized me; and I thought if they were to have all the Profit of the Discovery, they were the proper Persons to apply to, to make the Discoveries. Upon this I again apply'd to Colonel *Bladen* for a Letter to Sir *Bibye Lake*, who I found was perpetual Governor of the Company, to introduce me to him, which he immediately gave me, and I carried my Manuscript to him; and told him, as I had Reason to believe there was a Passage, and found the whole Profit would redound to the Company upon a Discovery, I desired he would peruse my Reasons for it; and if he thought there was any Weight in them, that he would lay it before the Company, and hop'd they would send out some Sloops to attempt the Discovery.

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Discovery. He told me, as before, that the Com-  
 pany had been at considerable Expence in attempt-  
 ing it under *Barlow*, when they lost two Ships; but  
 he would look over my Manuscript, and then judge  
 of it. Upon this we parted; and upon waiting  
 upon him some Time after, he told me he had con-  
 sidered it, and found I had been at a good deal of  
 Trouble in it; that he had mentioned it to the  
 Company, but they having lost 7 or 8000 *l.* in their  
 Ship and Cargoes under *Barlow*, they were unwill-  
 ing again to be at the Expence. I told him I was  
 not desirous to put them to any great Expence: I  
 only desired that they would order one or two small  
 Sloops from *Churchill* to go to *Ne Ultra*, and try the  
 Height and Direction of the Tides; that this being  
 not above 140 Leagues from *Churchill*, which might  
 be fail'd to in four or five Days with a fair Wind,  
 would be done for a small Expence; and if they  
 found there any Passage or Sea going Westward,  
 and a free Passage from Ice, they might go fifty  
 or sixty Leagues farther; and if they met a Tide  
 of Flood, they might immediately return, and send  
 a Duplicate of their Journal to the Company, for  
 that would determine the Passage. This he said  
 was so trifling an Expence, that he believed the  
 Company would do it, if it were only to satisfy my  
 Curiosity; but at the same Time said, he hop'd I  
 would not take it amiss if they delay'd it for some  
 Time; for at present they apprehended a *French*  
 War, (*France* being then at War with the Emperor)  
 and they were making use of all their Men and  
 Money they could spare in erecting a strong Stone  
 Fort at *Churchil*; for they were sure that the *French*  
 would attack their Settlements the Moment a War  
 was declared. I told him I thought it was very  
 reasonable that they should secure their present  
 Factories before they made the Attempt; but  
 hoped when the Fort was built, or the Apprehen-  
 sions

sions of a War were blown over, that they would then give proper Directions to their Sloops to proceed upon the Discovery: This he promised me, and so we parted.

After having fix'd this, I thought it would be proper to find out as much as I could of the Attempt made by *Barlow*, and whether any later Discoveries had been made in the Bay, which, apprehending that the Company were in earnest in attempting the Passage, since it would be so much to their Honour and Profit, I thought might be easily and properly done by applying to some of their Captains who had used the Trade, and recollecting that I had read in the Transactions of the Royal Society, some Remarks upon the Variation of the Needle, &c. in *Hudson's Bay*, communicated by one Capt. *Middleton*, who commanded one of their Ships; it naturally occurred to me, that he would be a proper Person to be acquainted with, in order to get a just Information of the Bay and late Attempts made there, which I was quite a Stranger to, except what had been mentioned to me by Sir *Bibye Lake* and *Jones*: I therefore desired Mr. *Allan*, a Merchant in the City, a Friend of mine, to enquire where he might be found, and finding the Coffee-house he frequented was a Coffee-house, in *Thames-street*, near *Billingsgate*, I went with Mr. *Allan*, and met him there.—Upon Mr. *Allan's* telling him who I was, and the Reason of my desiring to be acquainted with him; I told him what Hopes I had of a Passage through *Hudson's Bay* to the Western Ocean, and what Steps I had taken towards the Discovery, by engaging the Company to undertake it, and how far they had promised me; and should be pleased if he would communicate to me what he knew in relation to it, particularly as to *Barlow's* Attempt, and the Sloop which went to enquire after him; upon this he opened himself freely

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ly to me, and said when he first engaged in the  
*Hudson's Bay Service*, it was pretty much with a  
 View of being able to make out the Passage, having  
 seen most of the Accounts published of those who  
 attempted it, and particularly he mentioned *Fox*,  
 and told me it was one *Scroggs* who was Master of  
 the Sloop who went to enquire about *Barlow's Ships* ;  
 that he wintered that Year in *Churchill*, and was to  
 have gone with *Scroggs* upon the Discovery, and  
 to know what was become of the Ships ; but when  
 the Time for going out was come, *Scroggs* would  
 not let him go with him ; and the Governour, be-  
 ing a good-natur'd Man, did not oblige him to take  
 him, so he staid until his Return. He also said  
*Scroggs* was no way qualified for such a Discovery,  
 staid out but a short time, and some of his Hands  
 desiring to return with the Ships that Year to *Eng-  
 land*, was the Pretence for his coming back so soon.  
 He had not then seen the Journal, which the Com-  
 pany gave him to peruse some Years afterwards, when  
 I found they had chican'd with me, and I had told  
 'em I would find others who would make the Attempt.

He likewise told me, that *Knight* had been one of  
 their Governors, I think of *Churchill*, soon after  
 the *French* gave up *Fort Bourbon* to them ; and that  
 he having had Notice from the *Indians* to the North-  
 ward of a fine Mine, and a Passage to the Western  
 Ocean, thought it was a Gold Mine, and having  
 a great Share in the Company's Stock, he desired  
 Leave to return home, and then pressed the Com-  
 pany to give him two Ships to go upon the Dis-  
 covery and Trade, and had strong Chelits made to  
 hold the Gold he was to bring home. The Com-  
 pany were against his going ; but as he was *opini-  
 atre*, they durst not disoblige him, lest he should  
 apply elsewhere : This was the principal Part of  
 our first Discourse ; and as I acted then, as I thought,  
 in Concert with the Company, and for their Ad-  
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vantage, I desired him that he would communicate to me all he could inform himself of upon his next Voyage, which he promised me he would do. I believe I saw him once or twice again before he went his Voyage, tho' nothing material pass'd; but that upon his Return he said he would inform me of all he could in relation to the Passage, which he would do from time to time; and thus our Acquaintance and Friendship began. How inconsistent this is with his succinct Account of our first Acquaintance seven or eight Years ago, may be easily seen; or how I could then desire him to quit the Company's Service, and often made strong Applications to him for that Purpose, when I was at that Time acting in Concert with the Company, and did not know but they were in earnest until the Year 1737, when they pretended they had sent out their Sloops; and it was from his own Intimation by his Letter upon his Return that Year, that he let me know they had trifled with me, and did not design to make any Discovery, *Vide Appendix N<sup>o</sup>. VIII.* and by his several Letters it will appear, that instead of my pressing him to quit their Service, that he pressed me to get him appointed, and desired, in the mean time, that I should conceal it from the Company, lest he should lose his Bread before he secured a Ship under the Government, which I strictly complied with, even to cutting out his Name from his first Letter, and covering over another that his Name might not be mentioned to his Prejudice.

But as the whole Detail of this would swell these Remarks to a great Bulk, I shall refer to the *Appendix*, where I have inserted all his Correspondence with me, except such of his Letters as he himself has published with mine in his *Appendix*, to which I refer, that those who have Curiosity enough to read them may find them there.

Having thus given a History of our first Correspondence

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spondence, being very different from his Account to their Lordships, supported by his own Letters, I shall now remark upon the Answers given in by him Paragraph by Paragraph, where they are any way material, and then sum up his Proofs by his *Sea-Journals, Answers* and *Affidavits*, and shew that they are throughout *false* or *evasive*; and that the Proofs brought against him of Omission and Neglect, are agreeable to Facts, even laid down in his Journal, and to Reason; and that there are several Frauds and Falsties imposed by him upon the Publick, in order to his making out, that there is *no* Passage to prevent any future Attempt, and that there is a strong Presumption that he has been deluded or corrupted by the *Hudson's Bay* Company, since no Body can, or will alledge, that these false Currents, frozen Streights, large fresh Rivers, and Continents (where no such Things were) were affirmed and laid down by him as Facts, through Ignorance.

But to begin: His first Paragraph in his Manuscript, in the fifth Page of his printed Defence, is all false. See my Narrative, supported by *his own Letters*, and *Sir Bybye Lakes*, upon the Return of the Sloop; for until after 1737 I acted, as I thought, in concert with the Company.

He himself first informed me, that the Company trifled with me, and offered his Service. See *his Letters. Appendix* N<sup>o</sup>. III. VIII. and XII.

He once asked me, *if I would go myself*. I said, *If I was younger, and my Business would have permitted, I believ'd I should go; but as I was situated, I could not*. Page 6. in the printed Copy, my promising him a *royal Grant* is false and absurd; for it was his own Desire to be employed; nor did he give the Company any Notice, that I ever heard of, until he was fixed in the *Furnace*; and then he told me he went and gave up their Commission, for he



pres'd to have every thing fixed, because *the Time was approaching when he must again engage with the Company. See App. N<sup>o</sup>. XXI.* I made him *no alluring Promises*, when he pres'd to be made a Post-Captain, to take Rank in the Navy, in order to have his Chance of being an Admiral, which Sir *Charles Wager* said was all he could mean by it. He told him it could not be done, but he would make him Commander of both Ships, without a Purser, since his Compliment in the *Furnace* did not exceed sixty Men; and I told him, as I hop'd Things would succeed well, he must, of course, be gratified upon his Return.

He says, *I had the modelling of his Instructions, where there was no Mention of searching any Coast or Tide, or attempting a Discovery South of Whalebone-Point, in 65 Deg.*

As to my modelling his Instructions, all I could then know was from *Fox and Scroggs*, and therefore believed the *Welcome at Whalebone-Point*, near 65 Deg. the most probable Place; I then knew of no Opening near *Whale Cove* in 62 Deg. 30', nor near *Marble-Island*, and could only give Instructions as far as I knew: But he, who knew there were Openings there, from *Lovegrove* and others at *Church-bill*, and from the *Lieutenant at Marble-Island*; and he himself, in Council at *Cape Frigid*, owned that all the Coast, from *Cape Dobbs* to *Brook Cobham*, was broken Land and Islands, with strong Tides; how came he not to follow that Part of his Instructions, viz. *That upon any unforeseen Emergency he should advise with his Officers, and act for the best of the Service in which he was employed.*

He, in Page 7, lays a great Stress upon *my being convinced that there was no Passage from the Strait he sent me.*

As I then believed him a Man of Integrity, when he affirmed the *Wager* to be a *very fresh Water River*;

*River*, and all to be main Land, from *Brook Cobham* to *Repulse Bay*; how could I then say otherwise? Or could I say any thing else in my Letter of the 14th of *October*, until I had some Reason to doubt his Veracity, when he affirmed, *that there was undoubtedly no Passage from Churchill to Cape Frigid?*

Page 9, he says, *Soon after I commenced his bitter Enemy*. After I had got his Journal at large, I found he had concealed, in his Letters, material Parts of the Discovery from me, and had slighted all the Coast where the Passage was *most promising*; and, soon after, having an Account from some who were on board him, that he had falsified Facts, had made a large frozen Streight, in order to bring in his Tide, and Whales, where was only a small Arm of the Sea frozen over, round an Island; and that Passage filled with Islands, the whole not three Leagues wide, and laid down *Currents and Tides* from thence *contrary to Truth*; was it not incumbent upon me to find out the Truth? Could that be done by apprizing him of it, to give him Time to take off the Evidence? as it is plain he did in the Instance of the *Master*, who now contradicts or evades many of the Facts he *voluntarily* told me; and even in his *written Answer*, which was *much above* his Capacity, and was wrote in Concert with the Captain, he answered to Facts he denied he knew any Thing of, when he was examined before the Lords of the Admiralty, and refused answering to the 2d Query, which he had answered before the Lords, and confirmed every material Article of the Direction and Breadth of *Wager Streight*, its being free from Ice, and the Water brackish as far as he went; tho' he palliated all he could: But in his written Answer he referred to his Report, which was not before the Admiralty then, nor was it to the Purpose if it had been there.

He

He then abstracts my Letter of 22d *January*, letting him know I had found out from his Journal, that he had been in the *Passage*, &c. to which, he says, he soon returned me an Answer at large.

Most of that Answer was absolutely false, or evasive, contrary to his former Letters, and the *Lieutenant's*, *Surgeon's*, and *Clerk's* Answers, and to what the *Master* owned before the Lords of the Admiralty.

Page 10, what he mentions of Mr. *Samuel Smith* is false, nor was he an Agent of mine. See his own Account. App. N<sup>o</sup>. XLII.

The Affair of my meeting the *Lieutenant*, *Surgeon* and *Clerk*, is falsely related, as most other Things are by him; and my endeavouring to find out the Truth is no *uncandid* Treatment: The Fact is this; as Messrs. *Thompson* and *Wigate* had, on the 21st of *January*, informed me, by an anonymous Letter, in *Ireland*, that the Publick and I had been grossly imposed upon; and hoodwink'd by Captain *M——n*, by imposing *false Facts*, and *concealing* the Discoveries; these Gentlemen finding him resolved to stifle the Discoveries, by *disguising* and *altering* his Charts, *making out frozen Streights* where there were none, and *closing up Streights*, and making Rivers and Main-Land, where there were Openings and broken Land, and altering the Direction of the Tides and Currents, to answer the End he design'd; they having had Reason to suspect his Conduct upon the Voyage, thought it *scandalous* and *unjust* to the Publick to conceal what they knew; and as they were acquainted with my Correspondence with him, the *Clerk* having been employed in writing his Answers to me, by which they found how he endeavoured to *falsify* Facts, and thinking it unjust to have me imposed upon so scandalously, after all the Pains I had been at in promoting so beneficial a Discovery, they thought it a Piece of Justice

sice to the Publick, and to me, to acquaint me with his Views, and put me upon a Scrutiny into his Conduct; accordingly wrote me a Letter. See *Affidavit*. N<sup>o</sup>. XLI. They desir'd me to direct to Messrs. Brook and Cobham, at the Chapter Coffee-house, St. Paul's Churchyard, they promising to send me some Queries upon the Voyage. I answered the Letter, not knowing whether it was genuine or not, but told them, if it was genuine, and they sent me over such Queries as they mentioned, that upon the Receipt of their Letters I would come over to London, and give them all the Assistance in my Power to make another Attempt. Accordingly I got an Answer from them, with some Queries, referring me for farther Particulars until we met. See *App.* N<sup>o</sup>. XXXVIII. Upon my coming to London I wrote them a Note; they appointed a Meeting in the City, and there they convinced me that the Captain had falsified his Chart and Currents, &c. Upon this I thought it the best way to speak with the Lieutenant, before I should meet with the Captain, and they acquainting me where he lived, I wrote to him to come and dine with me, and desir'd that the Surgeon and Clerk should come with him; the Lieutenant came before them, and I ask'd him some Questions about the West End of *Wager River*, and what he observed there, and found him a little sly in giving any direct or full Answer; for I gave him no Light into what I had in View, only asking general Questions. When the others came, the Discourse became more general about the Voyage; and Mr. *Wigate* mentioned the Conversation the Captain had at *Churchill*, and asked the Lieutenant if he did not remember it; for they had often talk'd it over together; which the Lieutenant did not deny, and by Degrees owned several of the Particulars of the Voyage; of his being carried out southward of *Wager River* with the Ebb.

This

This was all that pass'd at that Time, out of which the Captain is to build or frame a Conspiracy in us against him.

Upon his bearing of this, he determined to pay me a Visit, Page 11. What followed, as near as I can recollect, was in these Terms: He taxed me with not seeing him as soon as I came to *London*, and yet seeing his Officers; I told him I was obliged to pay Compliments upon my coming to Town, and that I wanted to be satisfied about some Facts from his Officers before I saw him; but that my principal View at that Time was opening the Trade to the Bay, and settling that Part of *America* and the Lakes. He said *he would assist me in that*, and gave me an unfinished Chart of the whole Bay, which he was then engraving, and said he could get me a Manuscript of the History of the *Iroquese*, which he lent me next Day; I told him that his Correspondence and Familiarity with the *Company*, made me think that he had *too great a Regard* for them; he said I had no Reason to think so, for before he went abroad, he had told me of the Offer they had made him of 5000 *l.* which he had also mentioned to Sir *Charles Wager* and others; and if he had taken any thing *from them*, that he would not have told it; but he said that the *Company*, by Sir *Bibye Lake*, had promised him two Years Salary of 120 *l.* *per annum* not to hurt their Trade, and I could not blame him for endeavouring to get *that Money*; but now Sir *Bibye* denied he had made him any such Promise. He then desired that I would recommend him to the Lords of the Admiralty. I told him I was quite a Stranger to their Lordships; but promised to call upon him when I went into the City. Upon his going away he said, he hop'd if I could be of no Service to him with the Admiralty, I would be of no Disservice to him. I told him I would not any further than this, that as I apprehended there

was a Passage, I would have that Affair fairly laid before them ; and thus we parted.

What *Jemmy Smith* pretended to inform him of, I know not : He was a Youth, who had been an Apprentice in *Dublin*, and whose Father was my Friend ; he being a little wild, wanted to go to Sea ; so I recommended him to the *Captain* to take him the Voyage. I saw him but once or twice, and had no Conversation with him upon the Voyage, only asking him if he had been up *Wager River*. He said he was not suffer'd to go ashore, except once, when he went to an Island with the sick Men ; so that the Scheme he mentions, for *invalidating his Journal, which I drop'd*, was an Embrio of his own Brain ; for it was from his own Journal that I supported my Charge against him.

He then says in his Manuscript to the Admiralty, *Till now I had only felt a Concern for Mr. Dobbs, who had so shamefully departed from his Integrity ; but, in his printed Defence, he has changed it to, who had behaved to me in so ungentle a Manner, but this Intelligence warned him to take Care of his own Reputation, so had a Meeting with Rankin, and Wilson the Master, to compare their Logg-Books, and then signed them with Jemmy Smith.* At the same time he says in the Manuscript, *that Rankin and Wilson both declared an Abhorrence of my practising with them ;* this, in his printed Defence, he has again changed into, *declared an entire Dislike of my practising with them, and then refers to Wilson's Affidavit.*

As to *Wilson* (the *Master*) I never saw him but the Day after he landed from *Holland*, except at the Admiralty : I did indeed think it very material, to hear what he could say before the *Captain* had tutor'd him ; and understanding he was in *Holland*, and that the *Captain* had wrote to him, I desir'd the *Surgeon* and *Clerk* to bring him to me as soon as he landed, before he could see the *Captain*, which accordingly

cordingly they did. When he came, I did not *im-*  
*portune* him to set down any Thing in Writing, as  
 mentioned in his Affidavit, nor did he refuse to an-  
 swer, or refer to his Log and Journal, as he *there*  
 swears. I at once told him openly and candidly  
 what I was about, which was to have the full  
 Knowledge of what Discoveries were made, to lay  
 before the Admiralty ; for I wanted to have nothing  
 but the Truth appear ; and as *he* and the *Lieutenant*  
 had gone the farthest up *Wager River*, as I found  
 by their Report, I desired he would give me an Ac-  
 count of all he observed when at the N. W. *Bluff*,  
 which he freely and openly did in near the follow-  
 ing Words, which I minuted down the Moment he  
 left the Room, *viz.* That another Man and he  
 went higher up the Mountain than the Lieutenant,  
 where they kill'd a Deer ; that he overlook'd all  
 the Islands to the northward, which were between  
 the Branch they were in and the main Channel, and  
 saw beyond them a fair open Channel, four or five  
 Leagues wide, the Course running S. W. betwixt  
 high broken Lands ; that he saw between the Islands  
 and the Mountains he was upon, near the Shore,  
 about a League from the Beat, a Current or Fall of  
 Water, and upon his getting to the Boat, told the  
*Lieutenant*, that he wanted to go further to *try* the  
*Current* and *Streight* he saw ; but the *Lieutenant* said  
 his Provisions were spent, and he had exceeded his  
 Warrant in going so far, and staying so long, and  
 durst transgress no further. To which he answered,  
*To what Purpose are we come so far, if it be not to*  
*make a Discovery of t' e Passage ?* He said farther,  
 that the Whales he saw near *Deer Sound* were as  
 large, true, black Whales as any in *Greenland*, and  
 that they must have come from the westward, and  
 never came in at the *East* Entrance of the *River*  
*Wager* from the *Welcome*, or they would have been  
 seen below ; and said, that the Water there was as

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*salt* as any he had tasted in those Seas; and that there  
 was *no Ice* near *Deer Sound* to prevent their Passage,  
 nor any to the westward of the Bluff they were at,  
 but all was an *open Sea*. And upon enquiring about  
 the Tide at the Mouth of the *River Wager*, he  
 said, that he was carried upon the Ice by the Tide  
 of Ebb close to the Rocks, South about *Cape Dobbs*:  
 He said farther, that from the Observation he had  
 made of the Tides near *Brook Cobham*, that there  
 were great Hopes of a Passage there; for he had  
 observed, by Marks on Shore, that there had been  
 very high Tides, and asked Leave of the Captain  
 to go ashore again to observe them; but the Cap-  
 tain, under Pretence that he had staid too long be-  
 fore, said he should not go ashore whilst he staid  
 there, and accordingly sent others. See *this Minute*  
*in the Appendix*, N°. XXXV. Upon this I told him  
 his Account was very material, and desired he  
 would reduce it into Writing, and sign it, that Mr.  
*Wigate* would assist him in doing it; and then we  
 parted, he going away with the *Surgeon* and *Clerk*,  
 who were present.

I was afterwards told that Captain *Middleton*,  
 who was upon the Watch for him, carried him  
 home in a Coach the next Evening, and prevailed  
 upon him to write *nothing*, but to appeal to his  
 Journal and Report; and when Mr. *Wigate* went  
 to get him to reduce into Writing what he had de-  
 clar'd to me, he said he would come near me no  
 more; *for he would be the Ruin of no Man, he would*  
*beg his Bread first*. See App. N°. XXXVI. Upon his  
 Examination before the Lords of the Admiralty, he  
 was a very *uncoiling* Witness, *denying* part of what  
 he had *owned* to me, saying the Streight went W.  
 N. W. instead of S. W. and was about four Leagues  
 wide instead of five; but owned it was free from Ice;  
 he said the Water was brackish, but not so salt as he  
 before had told me, and said it was not taken up in the



main Channel, but near the Shore, below the Current or Fall of Water, and said he believed the Whales might come in by the Mouth of the River, and that the Tide hurry'd him out as far as *Cape Dobbs*, but did not carry him round it. In his written Answer, which he signed, he varied much from what he gave in Evidence before the Lords, not answering some material Points that he had before answered, referring to his Journal and Report, which was not to the Point, and was not then before them; and gave direct false Answers to Facts he told the Lords he knew nothing of, particularly about the *frozen Streight* and Tide there, and all from Hearsay, in the Captain's own Words; his whole Answer seeming to be form'd or revised by the Captain.

I need not here enter into a Justification of my Actions about *my shamefully departing from my Integrity*, nor at their *declaring an Abhorrence of my practising with them*, and endeavouring to make the *Lieutenant's Wife* resent his threatening to *canon him*, or from entering into a *Conspiracy* against him, and *enlisting the Surgeon and Clerk* in my Service, by promising them all *Commands and Employments*. The *Captain* speaks here a little inconsistently about his *Clerk*; for he says, *he listed in my Service, upon account that he had not made him a Purser*, and yet at the same time OWNS HE NEVER ASK'D IT; but as these Accusations are only the Cobwebs of his own Brain, without Proof, if I can shew his Defence to be made up of Falsties, Art and Evasions, and that his *Affidavit-Men* swear nothing to his Purpose, all very indeterminately, most by Hearsay, and to Facts, either without, or beyond, their Knowledge, or without Proof for their Assertions (great Part being taken from the *Veracity* of the *Captain*) where they either were not present, or were not capable of  
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judging of *Faëts, Currents, &c.* then all this grand  
Accufation will fall to the Ground *with its Author.*

He says *he ought not to forget Mr. Lanrick*; tho'  
his Quotation from him is no way material in his  
Defence, only that I *recommended* him, and he was  
*civil* to him; and yet this same *Lanrick* says, in his  
Letter to me (which seems in great part to have been  
revis'd by the Captain, as it is almost a Transcript  
of his, with only this single Addition) that *the Ice*  
*was just breaking up when they enter'd the River, and*  
*that they at last got to the fresh Water Stream.* But  
after all is over about the Voyage, he adds, " Sir,  
" this Account I would have sent you much soon-  
" er; but the *Captain, for Reasons* to himself best  
" known, *desired that none of us should say any thing*  
" relating to the Discovery for a little."

As to my contriving that *my Scheme should not take*  
*Air until his Men were dispersed*; I reckon it my  
Misfortune that they were dispersed before he sent  
me his Journal, which he delay'd, I believe, with  
a View that they should not appear against him;  
for I was obliged to enquire after the proper Per-  
sons who knew most: The *Lieutenant, Surgeon* and  
*Clerk*, were in *London*, but the *Master* was in *Hol-*  
*land*, the *Carpenter* gone, no Body knew where,  
who was a material Evidence about the *frozen*  
*Streight. Axx*, the *Gunner*, was at *Liverpool*, who  
was wrote to, and sent his Answer and Draught to  
a Lord of the Admiralty, which is full against his  
*frozen Streight*, [See *App. N°. XXXIX.*] and his Tide  
and Whales coming through it. It was but three  
Leagues wide, and full of Islands, surrounding the  
Island they stood upon. Those who staid with the  
Boat were not to be had, nor the Man who was  
with the *Master* above the *Highb Bluff*; these were  
the most material as to the chief Facts.

Having thus observed upon his Narrative of our  
first Acquaintance, and the Intercourse and Corre-  
spondence

ſpondence betwixt us; I ſhall now make ſome Obſervations upon his Answers to the Objections I made to his Conduct in the Voyage ſo far as relates to the *Discovery of the Paſſage*.

As to the Obſervation made about a *Strict Tide* at the *head Land* near *Brook Cobham*, in which he can't gueſs my Meaning, and refers to his *Journal* and *Maſter's* Answer, I alſo refer to the *Lieutenant's Surgeon's* and *Clerk's* Answers to Query X. and alſo to the Act of Council ſign'd by *him*, the *Maſter*, &c. at *Cape Frigid*, Aug. 8, 1742, wherein they agreed to make farther Obſervations between 64 and 63 Deg. on the North-side of the *Welcome*, having ſeen large Openings, broken Land, and Iſlands, with ſtrong Tides, but had no Opportunity of trying from whence the Flood came in their Paſſage thither; and yet here he can't tell what I mean by a *Strict* or *Strong Tide*.

To the next Obſervation about *Whales* not being ſeen in the Streights of *Hudſon*, or any part of the *Bay*, but on the North-weſt Shore, He ſays, in the Manuſcript Copy, that he has ſeen *Whales* 20 or 30 Leagues up the Streights; but, in his printed Defence, he ſays, he has ſeen them fifty or ſixty Leagues up the Streights, and has traded for freſh Bone in all Parts of the Streight and Bay, as far down the Bay as 56 Deg. Now, this is falſe, from his own Letter of the 27th of November, 1742. See his Appendix. N°. XIV. Where he owns he never ſaw *Whales* in *Hudſon's* Streights higher than twenty Leagues from the Entrance, and there only ſays, that he traded for Whale-ſinn and Oil at *Nottingham* and *Digg's-Iſles*, and ſays, he cannot think that they came round *Cary's Swan's Neſt*, but thro' his frozen Strait. Now he is pinch'd, he ſays, he has ſeen them ſixty Leagues up, and traded for Whale-ſinn in all Parts of the Streights and Bay: Is he to be believed in this, where he contradicts himſelf? Here he forgets what he wrote to me in  
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*January* 1737-8, where he says: *They all agree that a great many Whales are seen in the Welcome, whereas I don't remember to have seen any in the other Parts of Hudson's Bay, and I have been in all Parts of it, except the Welcome, which are all favourable Circumstances* (for a *Passage*). See *App.N°.VIII*. And in his *Letter* of *November* 1739, he acquainted me *the Company had sent out two Sloops* (by my *Solici-tation*) upon the *Discovery*; they prosecuted their *Voyage* no farther than 62°. 15' *North*, and returned without making any new or useful *Discovery*, so far as I can learn: *They found a great many Islands, Abun-dance of Black Whales, but no very great Tides, the highest about two Fathoms, the Flood coming from the Northward*. See his *Letter. Appendix, N°. XIII*.

As to his *Observation* of the *Finn* breaking off from the *Mouth* of the *Whale* in a short *Time*, we must, it seems, believe it, because he says so; but supposing it were true, the *Finn* might have been long taken, tho' it look'd fresh, and 'tis known that the *Esquimaux Indians* have some very large *Boats*, chiefly made of *Bone*, wherein they often cross the *Bay*. See the *French Accounts*.

His *Answer* to my next *Observation* (to prove that *Wager* is a *Streight*, and not a *fresh Water River*) is all evasive or false; and his *Reasons*, to support his *Conclusions*, no way satisfactory. The *Tides* flowing from the *Eastward*, since it was a *Streight*, is no *Reason* at all; witness *Magellan Streights*, the *Channel* betwixt *England* and *France*, *Hudson's Streights*, &c. The *Tides* lessening the higher it flow'd, not conclusive, supposing the *Fact* be true, as by *Narborough's Account* of *Magellan Streights*, *Hudson's Streights*, &c.

The *Waters* being brackish above *Deer Sound*, taken up upon the *Surface* among *Ice*, no *Reason*; especially since it was salt or brackish fifteen *Leag*. higher up; nor is the *Water-fall* he mentions, which brought the *Boat* to a *Grappel*, tho' a *League* from  
it.

it: For, by the *Lieutenant's* first, and most genuine Report, before it was alter'd to be made more palatable to the *Captain*, he says, *the Current or Fresh turned suddenly against him*, which shews it to be a *Tide* and not a *Fall of fresh Water*, as he would insinuate. The Words are these: *In running up a Branch of the main River, they had fifty Fathoms, and running between the Islands and the Ocean on the West Side of that Branch, the Tide or Freshes suddenly turned against us, the Boat altering the Land very much before. Sounded near the Island, and found no Ground at 68 Fathoms.* Does this Account make it a *Fall of fresh Water*? Ought it not rather to be esteemed a strong Ripling, thro' a narrow Passage, betwixt the Islands and the supposed Main they were on? His next Answer, about the Depth and Breadth, is *fallacious* and *evasive*, and no way parallel; there being no River so wide or deep, or any Thing like it, either in *Sweden* or *Norway*; and it is known that Trees and Shrubs grow upon fresh Water Rivers in more northerly Latitudes; above *Torneo* at the Head of the *Botnic Gulph*; thro' the greatest Part of *Lapland*; at *Petzora*, among the *Samoyedes*; on the *Oby*, *Jenisca*, *Lena*, &c.

The Account, he says, he had from *Norton*, I have Reason to believe is a *Fiction*, formed in his own Brain to answer his Purpose, otherwise *Norton* would not have told him that he believed there was a Passage near *Whalebone Point*; and therefore wants much better Vouchers: For there are several Persons, now living, who know the exact Time of *Norton's* setting out upon his Travels, and the Time of his Return, who all agree, that *Norton* was a poor Boy, taken an Apprentice by the *Hudson's Bay* Company, and sent over to one of their Factories in *Hudson's Bay*. After he had serv'd three Years of his Time, he became a tolerable Linguist for the Languages of those Nations that traded with the *Hudson's Bay* Company's

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Company's Factors.---When *Norton* was about se-  
 venteen Years of Age, a Factory was first begun to  
 be settled near *Churchill* River, in order to enlarge  
 the Company's Trade; and *Norton* was pitch'd up-  
 on, tho' a Youth, to go in quest of a Nation of  
 Northern *Indians*, (he speaking their Language) to  
 acquaint them there was a Factory settled at *Chur-*  
*chil*, for promoting a Commerce between that Na-  
 tion and the Company. *Norton* set out in his Ca-  
 noe, with a Northern *Indian*, the Middle of *July*,  
 1717, and went no farther to the Northward than  
 the Latitude of 60 Deg. He there left his Canoe,  
 and travelled in-land in quest of this Northern  
 Nation, took a great Sweep to the Southward of  
 the West, and found them returning to their Win-  
 ter Quarters. He engag'd some of those People  
 to travel with him to *Churchill*, where they all ar-  
 riv'd about *Christmas* the same Year, after having  
 endur'd a great many Hardships.—How does this  
 Relation, which is well known to be Matter of  
 Fact, tally with Captain *Middleton's* Story of the  
*Indian's* and *Norton's* travelling by Land to 68°. -  
 their seeing the Sun running round the Horizon for  
 several Days together, especially *Norton*, who must  
 have inverted the Order of Nature, by seeing the  
 Sun above the Horizon for several Days together  
 in Winter-time, when in 68°. But this is of a Piece  
 with his Account of the Tides, Frozen Streight, &c.  
 As for his elaborate Calculation for measuring the  
 Distance between *Churchill* and Latit. 68°. upon the  
 Arch of a great Circle, he might have saved him-  
 self that Trouble, as well as his Reasoning after-  
 wards, since his first Principle is false to a Demon-  
 stration. Mr. *Frost*, who was the Company's Lin-  
 guist, and many Years in their Service, and had  
 travelled a great Way North-west of *Churchill*, in-  
 formed me that near the Shore to the Northward  
 the Trees were small and low; that within Land,

at some Distance from the Shore, there was nothing but Mofs for fifty or sixty Miles; but beyond that the *Indians* told them there were large Woods. See Surgeon's Account in the Appendix, and Clerk's. N<sup>o</sup>. XL.

His Answer about the Whales being *above Deer Sound*, when none were *below* or *without the River*, is referr'd to his *Log* and *Affidavits*.

I desire also that the *Licutenant's* first Report may be look'd into, wherein he says, *there is a great Probability of an Opening on the West-side by the coming in of the Whales*; and again, in coming down, *we saw very large black Whales playing about the Boat, and in Shore*; the Reason they were not seen farther *West* than a little above *Deer Sound*, may be, that either being but *once* up, and staying *too short a Time*, they might not see any; or being in a rapid Tide and narrow Passage betwixt the Islands and S. W. Main, it might be no proper Place for their Feeding, the main Channel being to the northward of them, beyond the Islands. Besides, it is very probable that they go still eastward as far as the Ice will allow them, until they get into the Bay; for the Sea-Spiders, which they feed upon, are always near the Ice, and in shallow Water, near the Shore. See the Account of the *Whale-Fishing* in Greenland. His Reference to the *Log-book* must be either his *Pocket Log-book*, or that of the *Discovery*, where he might enter or alter what he pleased. The *large Log-book* belonging to the *Furnace*, which I left at the Admiralty, I carefully perused, and found no such thing as *Whales seen without Wager River*. As to the *Affidavits of Towns, &c.* they were all of Men on board the *Discovery*; and two of them swear they saw two or three black Whales, but perhaps their View of them might have been like the Captain's; for upon his telling me he had seen two or three as he came out of *Wager River*, and my answering him it was not minuted either in

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Log-book or Journal, but expressly set down, in go-  
ing up to the Ice, near *Wager River*, hitherto we  
have seen no Whales, but only one white Whale, as big  
as a Grampus, and three or four Seals ; and none  
whom I had conversed with, who had been on board,  
had seen or heard of any, He replied, I am sure I  
heard one or two blow ; and now by the Affidavits  
they were only seen from the *Discovery*. But in his  
Letter to me of the fifth of February, he expressly  
says, they had seen Whales without *Wager River* af-  
ter they came out, and before they went in ; and now  
his Whole Proof amounts to no more than three  
seen (if true) after they came out, so that he proves  
his former Letter false ; but supposing it was so, it  
won't answer his Purpose ; for there being no Ice  
in *Wager River* to prevent their sailing out, [see his  
Council held the eighth of August at *Cape Irigid*]  
wherein it is said, Unmoored the third of August,  
and sailed out of *Wager River*, that River and  
Strait being pretty clear of Ice, in pursuit of our *Dis-*  
*covery*. Might not then the Whales seen near *Deer*  
*Sound* have followed the Ice to the *Welcome*, and  
have been seen at the Mouth of the River? Or  
what could prevent Whales from coming there from  
*Whalebone Point*, where so many were seen by *Scroggs*  
and *Norton*? So his Proof can be of no Service to  
him in this Point, but the reverse, as it proves the  
Falsity of his former Letter.

As to the Stages where the *Eskimaux* had been,  
near *Savage Sound*, the *Lieutenant* saw the like at  
the *West Bluff*, which made him haste back to the  
Boat, and not go up so high on the Mountain as  
the *Master* did. What Part of the Country they  
reside in, is all conjectural, and quite evasive.

As to the Sea-Horses and Seals, I had it from  
the *Master, Wilson* ; for the Journal saying, there were  
many Whales and other Fish above, and none seen be-  
low, I ask'd him what kind of Fish they were ; whe-



ther salt or fresh Water Fish? He said he saw none besides the Whales, except Sea-Horses and Seals.

His Answer, in Page 19, about the large Collection of Water to the westward, is fallacious and evasive beyond Expression, and calculated wholly with a Design to deceive, since he saw the *Lieutenant's* first Report, and must have known the Truth both from *Lieutenant* and *Master*; for the *Master*, on his Parole Evidence before the Admiralty, expressly said, that beyond the Islands was a Streight four Leagues wide, going *W. S. W.* as well as the *Lieutenant*, and both said, they were in a *By-channel*, between the Islands and the *S. W. Main*. Now, in the Face of Truth, he would have it to be believed that there was a rapid Fall of Water from some great inland Lake, and that thro' this Fall was the only Way Ships or Boats could get to it; is not this too glaring an Imposition, contrary to Fact and Evidence, calculated only to deceive, evade, and prevent the Truth from being known; when it appears that the main Channel went round the Islands, and that this was only a rapid Tide in a Narrow between the Islands and South-west Side where they were?

As to his trying the Southwest Side, I say it was not tried at all; for his crossing over opposite to, or below *Savage Cove*, near the Mouth of the River, was nothing to the Purpose. Where he ought to have passed, was opposite to *Deer Sound*, which might have been passed much sooner, as will be seen when I come to observe upon the *Lieutenant's* Report, which he says elsewhere is so dark and unintelligible.

Page 20, in his Answer to the Charge against him, of his not searching the West Side of the *Welcome* at all, he affirms he searched it exactly as far as the Rocks and Islands would permit him to do it with Safety, and refers to his Log-books, Journals, and Affidavits.

Perhaps

Perhaps it was *his Pocket Log-book*; the great Log-book I saw proves otherwise. See the *Course by Log. App. N<sup>o</sup>. XXX*. He was, by Log and Journal, six Leagues East, true Course, off *Cape Dobbs*, at four in the Afternoon, *Aug. 9*. He kept on his Course until four next Morning, the 10th, and was then five Leagues off *Cape Fullerton*, or *Cape* in  $64^{\circ}. 10'$ , which is all broken Lands and Islands. *Cape Dobbs* is in  $65^{\circ}. 10'$ , *Cape Fullerton* in  $64^{\circ}. 10'$ , and from its being two or three Degrees Difference in Longitude it can't be less than thirty Leagues from the other. He had but four Hours Light, and yet he says he did not pass that great Bay in the Night. He did not sail ten Leagues of it with Day Light, and was six Leagues distant from the *Head Land*; and *Whalebone Point* being in  $64$  Deg.  $55'$ , was at least seven Leagues from *Cape Dobbs*; so that all the Opening which *Norton* saw from thence to *Cape Fullerton* was passed in the Night. The Journal says, the *Welcome*, at *Cape Fullerton*, is sixteen or eighteen Leagues wide, the S.E. Shore was in Sight next Day, at six or seven Leagues Distance; take that from the Breadth of sixteen or seventeen Leagues, and they were then nine or ten Leagues from the West Shore. The eleventh, at four in the Morning, they were in  $64$  Deg. four or five Leagues from the *Head Land*, which was North of them; so that it is plain they could see nothing (from *Cape Dobbs* to *Cape Fullerton*, or *Cape* in  $64$  Deg.  $10'$ ) of the Opening or Bay within. Then, as *per* Journal, they say they stood along until four in the Afternoon, when they haul'd off to deepen the Water; but by the Log it appears that they were eight Leagues off the Shore in Part of that Course; they lay by afterwards in the Night, and were next Morning five or six Leagues from the true *Brook Cobham* (the *Head Land*, North of *Marble Island*) and then they stood in with the *Head Land* into nine Fathoms, within two Leagues of

Perhaps

of the Shore, where they saw the Whales; does it not appear by this that he always stood in to the *Head Lands*, but never searched the Bays within them for Inlets or Openings, or ever once attempted to send his Boat ashore? Could he expect to find Openings by standing in upon *Head Lands*, either at *Cape Fullerton*, or where he saw the Whales? To what Purpose does he persuade Men to make Affidavits expressly against Reason, and his Log and Journal? For by them it was impossible they could see any thing between *Whalebone Point* and *Cape Fullerton*. Are such indeterminate loose Affidavits to be believed against Reason, and the *Lieutenant's*, *Surgeon's* and *Clerk's* Evidence, who said, *they could only see the Tops of Mountains at a Distance, here and there, as it were, in the Clouds?* May not wide Passages appear at Sea as quite lock'd up by the *Head Lands* over-locking one another, when, by sailing into them, they open, and appear very large? Can this be said to be a *narrow Search?* Or is the whole mere Evasion? See *Log in Appendix. N<sup>o</sup>.XXX.*

As to *Fox* and *Scroggs*, who, he says, are profoundly unintelligible; I think *Fox* is both intelligible and consistent, and *Scroggs* otherwise, only where he wants to disguise the Discovery, in order to please the Company, his Masters.

The Reason he gives for not sending his Boat ashore was, upon account of Want of Hands, and refers to the *Master's* Answer to Query XIII, and two Affidavits. We have just now seen what kind of loose Affidavits these Men were brought into; and the Captain depends much upon his *Master's* written Answers, which it is plain he penn'd himself, since they were very different from what he gave in Parole Evidence before the Admiralty; but to shew that his Answer here is false and evasive, it appears by Journal, and all the Answers, that he had, on the third of *August*, Hands enough to row both

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both Ships; and, with two Boats a-head, to tow  
 the Ships out of *Wager* River. A Day or two af-  
 terwards at the *Low Beach*, when he sent the *Lieuten-  
 ant* ashore to try the Tide, and repenting it in half  
 an Hour, recalled him; the Reason he gives was,  
 he had no spare Hands for the Boat. On the 8th  
 again he could spare the Boat, and was near twelve  
 Hours ashore himself, to make out his *frozen*  
*Streight*; and trusted the Ship to the *Lieutenant* in  
 a strong Tide, among much Ice: But the 9th,  
 10th, 11th, and 12th, his Men were all sick again,  
 and no Boat durst be trusted ashore, altho' it was  
 fine Weather and not hazy, as he affirms, and no  
 Ice on the Shore. Is not this all Sham, Evasions,  
 and Tricks to impose upon Mankind? The Men  
 were to be spared or not, just as it was to answer his  
 Purpose. Was there any Hazard on the 12th and  
 13th, when they water'd their Ships at *Marble*  
*Island*? Did he not then spare the Boats, but could  
 not to look out for an Inlet; and did not the *Sur-  
 geon* clear up that Point at the Admiralty, by pro-  
 ducing from his Books, that out of fifty-three  
 Men then aboard the *Furnace*, there were but eight  
 unserviceable. Is not his Defence here glaring Im-  
 pudence?

Is not his Answer also, about his Observation of  
 the Tides and Currents aboard better than ashore,  
 glaring and evasive? Every Body knows that when  
 once the Time of the Tide is fix'd ashore, and it  
 is known which is Flood and which Ebb, that then  
 by the Slacks it may be easily known aboard which  
 is Flood. But is this the Case here? Was it not  
 declared in Council, that they had no Opportunity  
 of knowing at the *Welcome* when they came out,  
 which was the Flood Current; and was not that  
 the Reason why they were to search that Coast  
 again? Would he suffer any Person to go ashore at  
 any Place to try the Flood? It will appear imme-  
 diately,

diately, that he had disguised the Tide at *Cape Frigid*, and called the Ebb Flood, and that with Design. By that Error once laid down, he imposed upon his Crew for the future, who could not be undeceived again without going ashore. Does not this in a manner prove that he knew the Tide he gave out was not the true Tide? But that the Flood came from the S. W. instead of the N. E. and that he had acted against his Instructions in following, instead of meeting the Tide; or, could he pretend to know the Height of the Tide on Board, without the Ship's being at Anchor; so that his whole Answer to this Point is false or evasive.

How does it appear that he try'd the Tide at *Whale Cove*? Was he ever there? Does Log or Journal ever once mention it?

He says, *he did not quit the Discovery till the 15th of August*. Was not the Discovery quitted when he left *Wager Strait* on the third of *August*, an open bold Passage leading South-west, the only Course we wish'd for? Was his going North-east to look for it, prosecuting the Discovery? Or was his returning from *Cape Frigid*, without searching any Inlet, to water at *Marble Island*, prosecuting the Discovery? When he was informed there of a fair Opening and a *strong Tide of Flood* coming from the Westward, would he let it be try'd? If he had, I should not have said that he quitted the Discovery so soon.

He says, *he was afraid of being frozen up upon his Return, as one of the Company's Ships was at Mansell's Island in September*. This was no Objection, when he was employed in the Company's Service, for then he returned *every Year in September*.

He says, *all to Southward of 65 Deg. has been carefully sought, and to no purpose, these 100 Years* (for 300 is a Misprint.) None were there but *Button, Fox, and Scroggs*, from whom we have any Account; how then has it been sought by many others? Neither *Scroggs* nor the Company's trading Sloops

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Sloops at *Whale Cove* going to make any Discovery,  
 but rather to conceal it. As to the Discoveries  
 within Land, they are all in his own Brain; for  
*Norton* would never have told him *there was an open*  
*Sea, and that he believed there was a Passage S. W.*  
*from Whalebone Point*, if he had travelled beyond  
 the Polar Circle, and found it still a Continent.

He says, *none of the Journals mention that the Ice*  
*was but just breaking up in Wager River, when they*  
*entered it.* *Lanrick's* Letter expressly says so, wrote  
 by his Privity; and tho' I agree with him that it  
 was broke up, yet the Journal says:—*The Lieute-*  
*nant returned the 17th; he had been up as high as the*  
*Ice would permit, it being fast above from Side to*  
*Side.* In *Common Sense* that should mean not broke  
 up. I allow to him, that Rivers having their Course  
 Northwards, that the Ice breaks up sooner more  
 southerly; but I much doubt if they do where they  
 run from the Northward from any Distance within  
 the Polar Circle, which was the Case here if it was  
 a River.

He endeavours to prove the Weakness of my  
 Conjecture from the Disproportion there is between  
 the Ice and Water, so as that the Ice should make  
 it *brackish*, in case it were a *Strait*; but it is not a  
 very weak Conjecture, that Ice above eight or ten  
 Foot thick, when dissolved, should make the Sur-  
 face of the Water *brackish*; *fresh Water* being light-  
 er than *salt Water*, will lie above the other for some  
 Time, so as to be only *brackish*. It has been taken  
 up at Sea upon the Surface many Leagues without  
 the River, when it was *Salt* below, as at the *River*  
*Amazons*, about 30 Leagues out at Sea.

I allow his Conclusion to be right, that in  
 fresh Rivers the Tide lessens the higher it goes,  
 until it comes to nothing at last; but it does not  
 follow that therefore it must be a *fresh River*, be-  
 cause we find in *Streights* it lessens also until it comes

to the Middle of the *Streights*, which he allows to be true in *Magellan's Streights*, &c. which may be the only parallel Instance *we* at present *know*: But there is no reason that *Magellan's Streight* should be BRACKISH, because there was no Ice there, it being in Lat. 53 Deg. Besides, I believe no Instance can be given of a River, with a *narrow Entrance*, that was *brackish* 30 Leagues up the River; and it appears this was *salt*, or *undeniably brackish*, at least so far.

In the last Paragraph, Page 27, he owns, *they saw no Whales at Repulse Bay, or at Cape Frigid, tho' he was within six Miles of the Cod of the Bay, and ashore a whole Day at Cape Frigid.* The seeing *Sea-Horses* and *Seals* are no Symptoms of *Whales*; for many are seen where there are *no Whales*, as at *Sea-Horse Point, Cherry Island, &c* and *Seals* in Abundance almost every where in the Bay, at *Port Nelson, Danish River, the Moose, Rupert's River, &c.*

His Answer, Page 28, about *his frozen Strait* and *Tide*, is all false, and calculated to impose upon the Public an erroneous *Tide* and *Current*, in order to make it be believed, that he followed his Instructions by meeting the *Tide*, which, tho' a Part of his Instructions, did not order him to go north-easterly to find it; and to bring *Whales* to the N. W. of the Bay, and to raise such high *Tides* as he found there, for (they being so much lessened at *Cary's Swan's Nest* and *Mansell Island*) without some other *Tide* to be found out from the Eastward, he must of course allow they were occasioned by the *Influx* of a *Western Ocean*; and therefore he is in the Right to labour this Point: For *without this Tide* and *Streight* he *must allow* of the *Passage*; and of course prove that he has scandalously imposed upon the Public in concealing the *Discovery*. But this can't be allowed him upon his bare Assertion, or saying, *I may as well say that Hudton's Streight is*

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an imaginary one ; when it is contrary to *better Evidence*, and *Reason*, founded upon Facts, which can't lie ; for his *Log-Book* and his *Master's hear-say Answers*, with his indeterminate Affidavits, won't establish this Tide and *Streight*.

The *Master*, before the Admiralty, deny'd he knew any Thing of it, he being on Board with the *Lieutenant* ; yet he afterwards gave a full Answer by *Hear-say* upon the *Faith* of the *Captain* ; but by comparing the *Clerk's* Answer with the Account and Draught sent up by *Axx* the Gunner, to one of the Lords of the Admiralty, against the Account he has set down in his Log and Journal, *his* spacious *frozen Streight*, an hundred Fathoms deep, is a mere Fiction, and is dwindled into an Arm of the Sea three Leagues wide, full of Islands, which surrounded the Island they stood upon, and separated it from the *Low Beach*, as appears from the *Gunner's* Draught of it, which exactly agrees with the *Clerk's* Account ; and by comparing their Accounts with the Journal it appears to be so : For, tho' the Entry in the Log and Journal was made by the *Captain*, and it was call'd broader therein it to answer his Purpose, making it four or five Leagues where narrowest, and six or seven where broadest, and sixteen or eighteen Leagues long, yet the Journal owns that it stretch'd S. E. round to the South and Westward, almost full of large and small Islands, and full of Ice not broke up, all fast to both Shores and Islands ; so that by its turning Westward, it must needs come in between them and the *Low Beach* Point, over-against *Cape Hope*. See *App. N<sup>o</sup>. XXX.* But if this be not sufficient Evidence against *his* *Streight*, we shall see how it stands as to the Tide and Current. The *Captain* says he left the Ship betwixt nine and ten, and got ashore at eleven, when (if he is to be believed) it was ebbing Water, tho', by his own Confession, it

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flowed until one, it being Low-water at seven at Night; for which he now begs Pardon, and asks Leave to retract it; but it is too late, and too material a Point to be given up, he having own'd it before a Gentleman of Character I carried with me on Purpose. He therefore does not deny it, as he does the Bribe offered to him by one of the *Hudson's Bay* Directors, no Body having been by when he told it to me; tho' he has forgot that he told it to others who will support what I have said. But this of the Tide was no Surprize upon him, tho' he says he had not his *Memorandum Book* at Hand; for he gave me his *Pocket Log-Book* to look into, the only Time I visited him, with a View to determine this Point about the Tide. In carelessly turning to that Part of the Voyage about *his frozen Strait*, I said, Pray, Captain, do you remember what Time it was Low-water, when you were ashore at Cape Frigid? He paused a-while, and said, Yes, it was Low-water about six o'Clock; and after a little Recollection he said, it was just about Sun set. I said, as it was then the 8th of August, the Sun set about seven; so that it was then Low-water about seven: Therefore he could not be surpriz'd into this Answer. But he did not at once consider what the Consequence would be in owning the Truth. After a little more indifferent Chat we parted; and after going out, I desired Mr. *Allan* to minute down this Concession, for a great deal depended upon it. But if he had not made this Concession, Facts can't lie.

He says he got ashore at eleven, and the *Clerk* says he returned to the Shore at seven at Night, when it was about Low-water. He says here in his Defence, that he returned at Half an Hour after four, when it had flow'd four Feet; now let us consider which of these is the Truth. He, as well as the *Clerk*, says, he travell'd from twelve

water at seven at Pardon, and asks late, and too many having own'd it I carried with me not deny it, as he one of the *Hudson's* been by when he that he told it to ave said. But this pon him, tho' he *Book at Hand*; for to look into, the a View to deter. In carelessly turne about *his frozen*, do you remember *when you were ashore* mile, and said, *Yes*, k; and after a little about *Sun set*. I August, *the Sun set* n Low-water about be surpriz'd into once consider what owning the Truth. at we parted; and *Allan* to minute eat deal depended de this Concession,

ven, and the *Clerk* at seven at Night,

He says here in at Half an Hour four Feet; now is the Truth. He, well'd from twelve

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to fifteen Miles, to the Top of the highest Mountain that overlook'd the Streight, and the *Gunner* and *Carpenter* went a Mile or two farther. It is not easy to be believed that he could walk from twenty four to thirty Miles in five Hours and a Half, that would be walking upon rough Ground at least five Miles an Hour; was it not very great walking it in eight Hours, without waiting to make Observations? Can it be supposed he could do it in less? If it was then seven when he returned, and High-water at eight, how then could he find by a Pole that it had twelve Feet to flow? It appears also that it was Half an Hour after nine at Night when he got aboard, tho' the Ship stood in near the Shore to take him in; what was he then doing for near five Hours after his taking the Height of the Tide? Or why needed he to ask of the Boatmen which way the Tide flowed, since he staid himself upon Shore until it was High-water by his Account? Thus Truth must appear, it is in vain to conceal it; for to make out one Falshood, many others are required to support it.

He here argues, that there was no Opening toward the *Island* between it and the *Low Beach*, because they observed no Tide there; this rather supports what I have said, and shews there was no Streight to cause a strong Tide; and by his *Lieutenant's* Observation (*See App. N<sup>o</sup>. XLIII.*) that *at ten in the Morning* a strong Tide forced the Ship to the northward, here it is plainly proved it was then flowing Water, and by setting them northward, it did not force them into the Streight North of *Cape Frigid*, but only the Tide from the S. W. flowing into *Repulse Bay*; and this was confirmed by the Answer of the Boatmen, who told him, the *Flood went to the northward*, which he contradicted, and said, *it could not be so*. He durst not say, *it should not be so*, tho' that was what he meant.

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After

After struggling very hard for this Tide at seven, and finding it won't do, he says, *what would it avail me if he granted it to me?* and so wants to raise Scruples, and make Difficulties about Tides in other Places. I say it will prove a great deal, and what he instances about the Time of the Tide from *Resolution* to *Diggs*, 130 Leagues, flowing that Distance in five Points from E. S. E. to S. by E. or in three Hours and forty eight Minutes, and being but one Point in flowing down to *Albany*, 250 Leagues, or forty eight Minutes in Time, where a South Moon makes high Water, I suppose this to be Fact, and shall then shew his Error, or the Fallacy he would impose upon the Public in this Postulate. All, who know any thing of Tides, are sensible, that if a South Moon makes high Water, a North Moon, the opposite Point, does so too; now since there is a *Striēt* or strong Tide in *Hudson's Streight*, and it is five Hours in running 140 Leagues, which is the Length of the *Streight*, and as the Tide in the Bay is spent, and consequently less rapid, it must, in Reason, be longer in flowing 250 Leagues; and the Case is plain, it is so; for it is seventeen Points in flowing down to *Albany*, and a North Moon makes high Water there; yet he would impose this Fallacy upon us, that it flowed in forty eight Minutes, instead of twelve Hours and forty eight Minutes; so this great Difficulty vanishes. As to his Quotation from the learned Dr. *Halley*, it is here nothing to the Purpose, only to shew that he has read it, and applies it without Judgment.

His Answer to my Remark of the Current of Floods going slowly N. N. E. on the sixth of *July* off the *Head Land*, in 63 Deg. 20', saying, *here I strictly keep to Rules and Theory*, and shewing that Tides and Currents vary from Winds blowing at great Distances from it, is only prauncing and evading;

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ing ; for at that Season of the Year they had no stormy Weather, probably, within the Bay, and the Eastern Ocean could not affect it. As to my Mistake he mentions in calling the Current two Knots two Fathoms, instead of two Fathoms, I own I took it to be a Mistake in copying the Journal ; for a Current so slow as two Fathoms in Half a Minute (not one Fourth of a Mile in an Hour) I could scarce call a Current at all ; and since in Council at *Cape Frigid* they allowed there were *strong Tides* and *Currents* at this *Head-land*, that caused my Mistake, tho' it be not a material one ; [See *Lieutenant's Account in App. N<sup>o</sup>. XLIII.*] nor taking six for five o'Clock, since he lowered the Boat at five to try the Tide. But he wants to catch at Straws like a sinking Man.

Page 34, he says, *I have misrepresented the Affair of the Boat's being carried out of the River by the Ebb Current.* I say I have not misrepresented it ; the *Lieutenant* said expressly before the Admiralty, that he was carried out by the Tide of Ebb, close by the Rocks, four or five Leagues out of the River S. W. round *Cape Dobbs*, and says the same in his written Answer, and that could not be an eddy Tide of Ebb from the S. W. The *Clerk* says, *this the Lieutenant and Master has often affirmed for Truth, tho' now the Master prevaricates, for fear of being any Man's Ruin.* The *Master* gave a different Answer in Writing from what he had affirmed to me before the *Surgeon* and *Clerk* ; for he told me, *he was carried by the Ebb quite round Cape Dobbs to the S. W. and when it flowed they got back again, and so got over to the North Shore with the Flood ;* but before the Admiralty he only owned, that *it carried him out S. E. by S. towards Cape Dobbs (until they met the Channel Ebb from W. by S. by Compass) the* Words in his written Answer.

But

But since the Captain refers to the *Lieutenant's* Report the 27th of *July*, so do I. It is plain from it, that a West Moon made high Water at the Entrance of *Wager River*. It mentions, that at Half an Hour after four in the Morning, the 26th, they were drove out of *Wager River*, along the South Shore, five Leagues off *Cape Dobbs*, and when the Tide of Flood made, he got through the Ice, and sailed to the North Shore; now if the Tide had flowed from the N. E. and so by *Cape Dobbs* S. W. the Course of the *Welcome*, when the Ebb slack'd, how could the Flood help him to get to the North Shore? Would not both Tide and Ice have carried him southwestward, the Course of the *Welcome*? So that this Report, to which he refers, is manifestly and absolutely against his Current and Tide of Floods coming from the northward.

He says he tried the Current there a Day before Full-moon, and it run only five Knots, when I say from six to nine Knots. I own I was told so; but see his own Letter from the *Orkneys*, where he owns it ran from five to six Knots; now since it is known that the Spring-tides are not at highest until three Days after the Full, my Information may not have been wrong, if the Current was between six and nine at Spring-tides.

Page 36, where I say he stood out of *Wager River* N. E. with Sails, Oars, and two Boats a Head, to avoid being forced up the River by the Return of the Tide; which Fact was supported by the *Lieutenant's*, *Surgeon's* and *Clerk's* Answers, and only evaded by the *Master's*. This he does not deny; but would have it believed he went out only eastward; but alleges I was of Opinion, that after he had got out as far as *Cape Dobbs*, he should have stood in again W. S. W. the Wind being S. Had I hinted any such thing it would have been absurd; what I said was, that when he was plying out with Sails and Oars, when

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It is plain from Water at the Enons, that at Half the 26th, they along the South bs, and when the ough the Ice, and y if the Tide had Cape Dobbs S. W. the Ebb slack'd, get to the North Ice have carried he Welcome? So ers, is manifestly nt and Tide of d.

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it was almost calm, being afraid of being forced in again with the rapid Tide of Flood, if the Flood had come from the N. E. from Cape Frigid, as he alleges, he ought not (to have avoided that Tide) to have plied out N. E. in the direct Way of the Current, but to have plied then towards Cape Dobbs, to have got into the eddy Tide, in order to be out of the Current by the Return of the Flood; and since no Body doubts his Capacity or Prudence in sailing his Ship, it confirms my Opinion that he knew the Flood came from the S. W. altho' he durst not own it.

As he refers to his former Answer about this frozen Streight, so do I, and shall only farther add, that the Current he mentions, was the Tide of Flood from S. W. flowing into Repulse Bay; and 'tis plain, from his Caution in calling the Lieutenant back in Half an Hour after he had ordered him ashore at the Low Beach to try the Tide, even before he could reach the Shore, that he was afraid of his discovering the true Tide; for when the Lieutenant return'd, and told him he was so near the Shore that he plainly saw it was falling Water, and had Ebb'd Two Feet; the Captain put it so in the Journal, sign'd by himself, which he sent me; yet he has now altered it in his printed Log-Book, [See his Log-Book, Aug. 6.] and calls it there flowing Water, and that it came from the Eastward, tho' the Lieutenant told him otherwise, and said the Ebb had like to have carry'd him S. W. round the Low Beach Point, [See App. N°. XLIV.] and is also evident from his checking the Boatmen at Cape Frigid, when they told him the Flood went northward. The Clerk likewise says, that when he went ashore he stopp'd a little to make some Observation of the Tide, upon which the Captain call'd him off from viewing it; so that by his whole Conduct he was afraid any should know the true Tide. As to my denying a Passage for the Tide, by stopping up the Streight with Islands, see

Log and Journal, which says, *the Streight was almost full of large and small Islands. See also the Gunner's Draught and Account, as well as the Clerk's, Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. XXXIX.*

The *Captain's* Answer to my Objection (from there being no Current or Tide in the Cod of *Repulse Bay*, since by his Draught it would have been in the very Direction of his Tide thro' the Streight) and his Solution for it, is false Reasoning in this Instance: *Repulse Bay* is very deep and wide; and, according to *his* Draught, the Tide would flow up N. W. so that it would set round the Bay, and come out again by *Cape Hope*, where would be a strong Tide.

Here again he thinks to prove an Inconsistency in me, insinuating that I would have it that *Wager River*, which is at the Entrance but seven Miles wide, bids fairer for filling the *Welcome*, and all those Bays, than the Frozen Streight, which he would have to be as many Leagues wide, and much nearer the Eastern Ocean. I defy him to shew that I ever hinted any Thing like it; nay, I said that I believed there was a South-western Tide, that flowed thro' the broken Lands and Islands between *Wager River* and *Whale Cove*, and flowed up the East Entrance of *Wager Streight* until it would meet a contrary Tide; which probably may be some where above *Deer Sound*.

Page 38, when I press him with there having been a strict Tide near *Brook Cobham*, which is allowed in his *Cape Frigid* Council, his Answer is, that at full Moon it ran two Knots, and he found it run more between *Churchill* and *York Fort*; and then quits it to shew how strong the Tides run farther North. But does this Answer agree with what they allowed in Council, and is affirmed by the *Lieutenant*, *Surgeon* and *Clerk*, to be as rapid as any they have seen? [See the *Lieutenant's Paper* in

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the Appendix N°. XLIV. sign'd also by several of the Men on board, as to the Current there, which broke a strong deep-sea Line, and thereby lost a deep-sea Lead of fifty Pounds weight, the Tide running several Knots, instead of two Fathoms, as here he mentions.] Or does it agree with what the Lieutenant observed at *Marble Island*, when he took the Draught of a fine Cove there, where he found it to flow so strongly from the West-North-West by Compass, that the Boatmen were up to their Middle in Water before they could get a Bear they had kill'd into the Boat? But since this Tide, and the Opening the Lieutenant saw to the Westward, is a very material Point of the Discovery, and is not taken notice of in any Part of the Captain's Defence; tho' it is plain he had the Lieutenant's Draught and Account of it, by his fixing the Original Draught in the Appendix of the Manuscript delivered in to the Admiralty, to which he gives there a very slight Answer, saying it is dark and unintelligible, it may be proper in this Place to observe upon it, and refer to the original Account in his Appendix. The Captain disparages the fine Cove the Lieutenant found, by saying it was all Pebble-Stones at Bottom; and all the Advantage the Lieutenant could make of it, was for Ships to come from England to load Pebble-Stones there. But is this to be taken upon his Word? For the Lieutenant says no such Thing. He says it is dark and unintelligible, like his other Reports: If so, it is only so to him; for, to me, this, as well as the others, is very plain and intelligible; and his endeavouring to explain away his Meaning, by saying, if he meant that the Tide came round the N. W. Side of the Island, it proceeded from a great Bay between two Head-lands, one in 63°. 20', and the other on the West Side of the Island; and the Island being in the Tide's way, it would come round both Sides of it, and this being the Course of the Tide,



Tide, made him apprehend it came out of some Inlet from the Western Ocean.

As the Island lay W. N. W. and E. S. E. by Compass, which is nearly West, Variation allow'd, it is very plain that he meant it came from the Opening in the supposed Main to the Westward; so how is he unintelligible? Now his supposing it to have come round the Island from a Bay N. W. of the Island, might have been a plausible Evasion, tho' not true, in case his *frozen Streight* was in being, and a great Tide flow'd down the *Welcome* from it. But his Streight and Tide are both vanished. Yet, if it were true, he has, by his Draught, own'd that the Eastern Tide by *Cary's Swan's Nest* meets the other at the *Head-land* North of *Marble Island*; and this would have caused the Current of Flood South of the Island to go from the Eastward into that Inlet or Opening *Rankin* saw, and not to come from it. So that he would explain away the *Lieutenant's* Meaning, and have it to be believed it came round the Island, without any Foundation or Reason; but that he was pinch'd, and had nothing better to say for it. I am mightily pleas'd to find that he allows there was such a Tide and Opening; I was afraid he would have deny'd the whole: But here he modestly says *the Lieutenant unjustly accuses him of hindering him from examining this Opening, and refers to his Answer to Query XX. where he says, the Captain did not discourage him from making any Discovery [in Wager River.]* The *Surgeon* also saw the *Opening* from the *Top-mast-head*, but nothing could move the *Captain* to let it be try'd.

But if it had come round the West End of the Island, what would that make for him? It could only be inferr'd from thence, that there were Inlets to the N. W. of the Island, as well as *Rankin's Opening*, from whence the Tide also flow'd, and 'tis very rational that it should be so; and that

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it is all broken Lands and Islands, considering that  
a nearly West Moon makes High-water all along  
that Coast, as far as *Wager River*, where it also  
flows *West* by his Journal: For the *Lieutenant* says  
it was almost dark when the strong Tide came  
from the Westward, which was near eight at Night.  
Now the Tide could not rise so fast (until it had  
flow'd at least an Hour and half, or two Hours)  
as to rise up to the Men's Waists; and as it was  
just then Quarter Moon, it was Low-water about  
six at Night; so that a West Moon made High-  
water; and therefore the *Lieutenant's* whole Account  
seems agreeable to Reason and Truth.

He says also that a W. S. W. Moon made High-  
water at *Whale Cove*, which, being earlier, could not  
be from his *frozen Streight* Tide. But to return to  
his Answer about a N. W. Wind's making the  
highest Tides at *Churchill*. Here he has got *Mac-*  
*beth* to swear, that a *N. and N. E. Wind raised a*  
*higher Tide at Churchill than a S. or S. W. Wind.*  
It is very reasonable that a N. E. Wind, which blows  
nearly into that River, should raise higher Tides than  
a S. W. Wind, which blows out of the River; so  
that this Affidavit is all Evasion. The Ocean Tides  
from the S. E. and N. W. are no ways affected by  
these Winds, as they blow athwart both Tides; but  
the N. W. and S. E. Winds are what blow from  
each Ocean, in case they each communicate with  
the Bay. Now his Proof should be, that a S. E.  
Wind raises a higher Tide than a N. W. which he  
durst not attempt to prove against, not only the  
*Lieutenant, Surgeon, and Clerk's* Evidence, but also his  
own Letter to me of the 20th of *January, 1737-8.*  
*See the Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. VIII. wherein he says, the*  
*Company think it their Interest rather to prevent than*  
*forward Discoveries in that Part of the World, and*  
*for that Reason they won't suffer any of our Journals*  
*to be made public; all the Information I am able to*  
give

give, is, that the Tides rise more with a N. and N. W. Wind, at neap Tides, than ever the Spring Tides do at Churchill, or Albany, with Southerly or Easterly Winds; and as there is little or no Tide betwixt Mansfield and Cary's Swan's Nest, nor any on the N. or N. N. E. of Mill Isles in that Bay, it must come from the Welcome, which is not far from some Western Ocean.

Now is his loose Affidavit to be regarded after this, from his own Knowledge, having wintered before in Churchill? And does he not allow that there is no Tide North of Mill Isles, near his New Frozen Streight; and yet he now brings a vast strong Tide thro' it.

As to the Whales and Tides in the Welcome, I need say no more upon these Heads, they being fully treated of already.

In Page 40 he begins a kind of History of the Trials made, and a learned Dissertation from it, which I need not follow, but refer to; and only observe where it is false or evasive of the Truth. He says *Button* and *Fox* were there several Years together; *Button* was never there but once, and *Fox* but once. *Scroggs*, *Kelsey*, &c. were all in the Company's Service, and went to trade, not to make Discoveries; the Company wanting to prevent any. See the Letter mentioned above. So what *Kelsey* knew by his *Indians* was not to be divulged. It is false that he ever discouraged me, but, on the contrary, always gave me Hopes. See his Letters. The following Paragraph about his Care and Diligence in inquiring about the Passage, is all Cant; and his Enquiry about the *Indians* and *English*, who travelled Inland to the Northward, is just the same; as is his being satisfied that any farther Search is fruitless; all which is contrary to his former Letters and Observations upon *Scroggs's* Journal, to which I refer in the Appendix.—I could know nothing of  
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*Whale Cove* and *Marble Island* before he went out; but he knew of these Openings at *Whale Cove* and *Marble Island* from *Lovegrove* and *Rankin*; and therefore as it was for the good of the Service, he ought to have done it pursuant to his Instructions. His Instructions were to go to *Whalebone Point*, and keep either to the Eastward or Westward of that Point, according as he could get a Passage; and to meet the Tide of Flood, whether it came from S. W. or N. W. [See his Orders in his Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. I. p. 100.] but those Orders did not command him to go Eastward to meet it; and yet, that he might have a Sort of Pretence to go out of the Way, he has fram'd a Tide of his own. His Instructions were, upon every Emergency, to consult his Officers, and act for the good of the Service he went upon; so that he had Latitude enough to have search'd any Place Southward of *Whalebone Point*, where he had any Account or Hopes of an Inlet or Passage. Here he goes on with a learned Dissertation from Facts of his own framing, which must be taken upon his Word, in which there is very little Truth; he affirming Facts contrary to his former Letters to me, and therefore is not to be credited.

His Account from the *Indians* and *Norton* is false. See his *Observations upon Scrogg's Journal*, the *Surgeon and Clerk's Report*, and his *Letter to me* in October, 1739, wherein he says: *I was this Year at Churchill Factory, where Norton is Governor; he was with Scroggs in 1722; and he seems confident, from a View he took from a Promontory ashore, that there must be a clear Passage; the Land is very high, and falls off to the Southward of the West. This Year some of the Natives, who came down to trade at Churchill, and had never been before at any of our English Settlements, informed him they frequently traded with Europeans on the West Side of America, near the Latitude of Churchill, by their Account,*  
2. *which*

which seems to confirm that the two Seas must meet. See Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. XVI. and XL. After this will any believe him, when he says *Norton* had travelled by Land to 68 Deg. without seeing any Sea, Tree, or Shrub? Sure he thinks he deals with blind People, or Children! But it can be made appear that *Norton* said otherwise. See *Messieurs Thompson and Wigate's Account* in Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. XL.

After this Dissertation in Fol. 43 and 44, he has inserted a great deal, which is not in the Manuscript delivered in to the Admiralty, which is all calculated to intimidate any from making any further Attempt, and to evade the Truth.

And since Capt. *Middleton* has laid down some Particulars for me to consider of before another Voyage is attempted, I shall, that the Public may not be imposed upon by a formal Set of Falsities, or intimidated by invented Dangers, give a true Description of the Voyage thro' *Hudson's Streight* to the *Welcome*, where the Passage is supposed to lie, and desire the Reader will compare my Account with his, whereby his flagrant Falsities, Evasions, and Intimidations, will be made evident.

*Hudson's Streight* is twelve or thirteen Leagues wide at the Entrance, the Tide running W. S. W. and E. N. E. cross the Mouth of the Streight, so that you are set over from Side to Side in one Tide's Time. The North Side is very bold and steep to, the South Side dangerous and rocky near the Shore. It flows E. S. E. at *Resolution*, and from that Place to *Cape Diggs* is 140 Leagues, which is the Length of that Streight, *Cape Diggs* bearing W. 12<sup>o</sup>. N. from the Island of *Resolution*. Be sure keep within a Mile or two of the north Shore in your Outward-bound Passage, if you have any Thing of a leading Gale; for the Ice sets wholly over to the Southward. When you are Half-way up the Streight, make a Slant over towards *Cape Charles*, which

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which is a high, bold Land, and then keep be-  
tween *Nottingham* and *Walsingham*, unless you have  
a Mind to prove the Tide between *Salisbury* and  
*Nottingham*, which, if you have Time and fair  
Weather, will satisfy you of the Tides from the  
Northward, and prove the Reality of Capt. *Middle-  
ton's* Frozen Streight, if there is any such Thing.  
Two of the annual Ships belonging to the *Hudson's*  
*Bay Company* have been lost among Ice within these  
thirty Years, but let not that intimidate you; a  
good Look-out is the best Pilot among Ice, toge-  
ther with a diligent Attendance on the Helm and  
Sails. After you pass *Cape Diggs*, take care of  
*Mansfield's Island*, which is a low flat Land, twenty  
Leagues long and three broad, the north End of  
it is thirteen Leagues W. by S. by true Compass  
from *Cape Diggs*; the Water shoals off from the  
South End to a great Distance. When you are  
round *Mansfield's Island* shape your Course for *Cary's*  
*Swan's Nest*, or *Cape Southampton*, keeping a good  
Offing, because in some Places on that Coast the  
Water shoals suddenly; and after you are the  
Length of *Cape Southampton*, you may steer away  
N. W. or more or less northerly, for any Part of  
the west Side of the *Welcome*, where there are  
good Soundings: However, keep the Lead going.  
Captain *Middleton* once passed *Hudson's Streight* by  
the 5th of *July*; and as for his being detain'd in  
Ice for six Weeks, it is true; but then it was at the  
Bottom of the Bay near *Albany*; for a N. W. Wind  
drives the Ice from the *Welcome* into *Hudson's Bay*,  
which makes the *Welcome* pretty clear by the Middle  
of *July*, when you may attempt any Discovery on  
the West Side. As to crossing the Bay, it is an In-  
timidation of his, because there is no Necessity for  
it in going to the Northwestwards upon Discove-  
ries. Indeed if you winter at *Churchill*, as he did,  
you must then cross the Bay; but you have not any

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Reason to believe that he was never able to arrive at the Factory before the 20th of *August*, above five or six Times in three and twenty Voyages, when his Majesty's Ship *Furnace*, which set out later by a Month than any of the *Hudson's Bay* Ships ever did, arrived at *Churchill* the ninth of *August*, and might have got there much sooner, had she not been obliged to keep Company with the Tender, which was a very dull Sailer. And it was wintering there that broke the Spirits of the Men. They had, by the best Accounts, a most miserable slavish Life; the Carpenters he obliged to repair three of the *Hudson's Bay* Sloops; the Armourer and his Mate to work for that Company, the Joiners employ'd within the Fort, &c. This he did under the Colour of an Order he received from their Lordship of the Admiralty, requiring him, *Whenever any Opportunities offered to be serviceable to the Company*. See his Appendix, p. 103. Yet, at his Return to *England*, the Men who were necessitated to take up any Cloths or Goods of the Company's Factor there, was obliged to pay for the same out of their Wages at the Rate of 300 *per Cent.* and the Captain brought a Bill upon the Company of above 130 *l.* for their Work, and his own Overseership, for which he charg'd 10 *s. per Day*. Others were employ'd all the Winter in the Woods in cutting down and sawing Timber, their Work amounting to some thousands of Feet of Deals, Plank, thick Stuff, Beams, &c. necessary for fitting the Ships in the Spring; for which, and other Labour done by the Men, he has charg'd the Government, and been paid above 200 *l.* without his disbursing one Shilling to the poor Fellows who did the Slavery, so that both these Sums are entirely cleared into his own Pocket: For notwithstanding he affirms he was obliged to make considerable Presents to the Governor for Favours, yet I am very credibly in-

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form'd the Returns he received from that Person much exceeded the Value of the Trifles he presented. Now let us see the Account he gives me in a Letter dated *November 27, 1742*, wherein he says, *there will be a great deal of Difficulty to procure any Recompence for his Loss of these two Summers in leaving the Hudson's Bay Service, where he should have 1400*l.* in the Time that he has acquired but 260*l.* in the Governments.* See his Appendix, p. 126. It is certain that his Pay, together with the two Sums before-mentioned, will amount to 600*l.* besides other very considerable Perquisites not accounted for, which, if added to the two Years Salary promised him by the Company, will amount to more than 1400*l.* How he makes out that Sum for two Years Service in the *Hudson's Bay* Ships I am at a Loss to know, since his Pay there was not more than 120*l. per Annum.* But to return,

When the Spring approached the Men were incessantly labouring to dig the Ships out of the Ice, many of them lying on their Bellies upon the Surface of the Ice for Hours together cutting them loose; and this Fatigue lasted from the Beginning of *April* to the latter End of *May*, to the great Pity and Amazement of the Factory's People, who never meddle with their Vessels till the Ice is broke up in the River, which always happens by the 14th of *June* or sooner, and then Nature does in a few Days all that those poor Fellows had been labouring at nigh three Months, which Captain *Middleton* confesses was of no Service in forwarding them. The only Reason I can give, why those People underwent such hard Tasks is, that it might frighten them from ever undertaking such a Voyage again; and by the dismal Stories of their Hardships, intimidate others. *Scroggs*, so often mentioned, got loaded and sailed out of *Churchill* River by the



20th of *June*, and the *Furnace* might have sailed out of it by the 25th, had it not been for contrary Winds.

When they got out, the Bay was all clear from Ice, except a few stragling Pieces not worth mentioning; otherwise the Sloop belonging to the Factory (which sailed at the same Time with the *Furnace*, and was bound for *Whale Cove* in Latitude  $62^{\circ}. 30'$ . to trade with the *Eskimaux Indians* for Whalebone and Blubber) would not have ventured in Shore among Islands and Openings. Captain *Middleton's* being fast in Ice in *Hudson's Streights*, for some Days in *September*, is another intimidating Evasion. The Case is this: If it falls calm in *September*, the Surface of that Streight is every Night overspread with a thin Covering of Ice, a Quarter of an Inch thick, and consequently surrounds the Ship; yet the least Breath of Wind occasions the Ship's progressive Motion to break all to Pieces without any sensible Hindrance to the Ship's Passage. He likewise, in the same Page, fills all the Bay and Openings to the Northward of  $61^{\circ}$ . with Ice impassable till the Middle of *August*, nay sometimes for the whole Year, and, like his frozen Streight, all of his own Creation. He then tells you, that of all the Sloops the Company sent almost every Year upon Trade or Discovery, none but *Scroggs* could ever get beyond the Latitue of  $64^{\circ}$ . for Ice, and many of them not beyond  $62^{\circ}. 20'$ . yet in Page 40 he speaks of no less than seven Persons, besides *Scroggs*, who, *he says*, have searched the west Side of the *Welcome* from  $59^{\circ}$ . to  $65^{\circ}$ . and adds, that if there had been a Passage between those two Latitudes, they certainly would have found it long ago. In his last Paragraph, p. 44, he says, if there was no Ice to prevent a Ship's passing, about the latter End of *August*, yet the Gales of Wind and drifting Snow would put it out  
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of all human Power to handle a Sail or keep the Deck: Yet look on the other Side of the same Leaf, and you will find he tells you, that many Years Ships cannot pass *Hudson's* Streight outward-bound before the latter End of *August*. Upon the whole, I think no two Pages, ever printed, can match these two of his, p. 43 and 44, there being no less than fifteen Falsties, Evasions and Incoherences in the Compass of Fifty-eight successive Lines.

To my Objection of his not enquiring after, or looking into the Opening the *Lieutenant* saw near *Deer Sound*, he falls foul, as usual, with the *Lieutenant's* Report, which he says is beyond his Comprehension, and begs Leave to submit it to their Lordships, as it is a sample of his *other* Reports.

This Report of *Rankin's* of the 16th *July* 1742, which is so *very unintelligible* to him, does not seem so to me, for I think I understand it; it is plain he had not then been in the main Channel of *Wager Streight*, but between the Islands and the N. E. Coast, above *Savage Sound*, where he had a Channel three or four Miles broad, with very good Soundings, as also through the Islands between that and the main Channel; there he got into a clean Bay or Cove, where the Ships afterwards lay, and the Tide, it is plain, did not come along the Channel between the Islands and the N. E. Shore; but came from the main Channel, through the Islands, from the southward, and flowed thirteen Feet. The most northerly Islands (Variation allowed) bore from that Cove N. W. four or five Miles, with very good Soundings; above these Islands the Streight was twelve or thirteen Leagues wide, and the Land from thence, if the *Captain* speaks true, as to the Course of the River, runs N. W. by W. and the *Lieutenant* speaks afterward of the true Course, Variation allowed. Above that he found a larger and better Bay

Bay or Cove, with deeper Soundings, quite free from Ice (above the Point on this Side of the *Bluff* he then saw) and clean Ground. Here he again speaks, *without Variation*, and says the Tide came from the southward, and flowed thirteen Feet and a Half, and the Streight was still twelve or thirteen Leagues wide. He there went upon the highest Land on the N. E. Side, and set the Land, and he says there was a *Bluff* upon the South Shore, with three Islands off it, and a low Point at the Back of it, that is, *eastward* of it, which bore S. by E. from him, (he speaks still of the true Bearing) and a low sloping Point, which bore S. by W. from him, with that *Opening* in the middle; that is, the *Opening* appeared between these two Points, and the Land went away from that N. W. a high mountainous Land, which *Opening* runs down with a bluff Point, and so to the other low Point, and thence it is again a high mountainous Land. He again confirms this, as seen by him from the high Land he was then upon, and then says, it being Quarter Flood, by the Tide that came in at *Wager River*; he saw the Ice begin to move, and set round the Point he was upon, against that Tide of Flood in the Middle of the main Channel, so that it could be no eddy Tide; and on the sixteenth in the Morning the main Channel was almost clear of Ice, and was nine or ten Leagues broad. Now upon the *Lieutenant's* giving the true Bearings, which it is plain he does by the Course of the Streight, it is very intelligible and consistent, and it appears plainly that the main Channel was free from Ice at that time, and that there was a counter Tide, from the Tide of Flood, which flow'd in at the Entrance of *Wager River*, and yet *this Tide* and *Opening* was never farther enquired into.

As to the Passage out of *Wager Streight* to the westward, he refers to the joint Report of the *Lieutenant*

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*tenant* and *Master*, when it was made to answer his Purpose, by saying there was a Fall of Water, and the Opening, they believed, was on the East Side, by which they believed the Whales came in. But I refer to the *Lieutenant's original Report*, where he says the Tide turn'd against them, that there was a *fair Streight* leading W. S. W. and that he believed *there was a Passage westward*. In his Answer here he wants to intimidate, for there is no Danger of Ice in the Sea to interrupt their Passage until the Beginning of *October*, or latter End of *September* at soonest; and since the Ice was still dissolving, he must have got out easier than he got in.

Page 46, what he here denies of the 5000 *l.* being offered to him, may be false, tho' the Presumptions be strong that it is not so; but it is true that he told me they offered it to him, and he told others so as well as me, in order to make it a Merit in him for having refused it; and tho' the latter Part be all Trumpery, yet it is *such as he* told; and, as I remember, the Offer was made him about the time he carried them a Letter from the Admiralty, to desire that they might give him all the Assistance they could in the Discovery, by letting him winter in their Factories, and to supply him with any thing he wanted, which the Admiralty promised to repay them upon his Return. The Discourse *they* had with *him*, as he related it, was nearly in these Terms; "That the Voyage he had engaged in, would probably bring them into a *Law-suit* with the *Crown* about the Rights of their Charter, which might cost them perhaps 5000 *l.*; and as he knew *all* the Secrets of their Trade, it would be better for them to *give him* so much Money, than to *throw it away* at Law; so that if he would quit the King's Service, and come back to theirs, or go to *Davis's Streight*, or *any other* Place, to find the Passage, (but where he was  
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“ ordered) *He should have the Money.*” To which he answered, *he might be Rogue enough to take their Money, and do them no Service; for the Gentleman, who projected the Voyage, had it so much at Heart, that if he did not go, he would get some other Person who would go; but before he had done with it he hop'd to go in his Coach and six.* To which that trumpery Answer was made, *I hope to see you at the Devil first.* I don't believe he then took it, but it left an Impression upon him, as his Answer did upon them; that he *expected a better Proposal* in case he could serve them, in *neglecting or avoiding* to make the Discovery; and if upon his Return he could let them see that he had served them, and could make out a Passage or not, as he found it would answer his Purpose best, by making the most of it, on one Side or the other, he expected at least to make *double the Sum*; since he imagined *his Character would prevent all Attempts* against them for the future. This they could do by giving it to him in their Stock, and in some Time after making him one of their Directors. That he wanted to play a double Game appears from what he said to me, and a Discourse he had afterwards with Mr. Allan; for upon my coming to London, when he found me still to be of Opinion that there was a Passage, he said, *if I desired it, he would go again upon the Discovery, but would not winter again in the Bay.* To which I gave no Answer; and afterwards when he found I was pushing Matters against him at the Admiralty, he told Mr. Allan, *I was in the wrong to take Mr. Thompson and Wigate by the Hand, for they were sinking People; but if I would have joined with him, he might perhaps shew me that there was Hopes of a Passage yet.*

Page 47, he says it is absurd to suppose that he should refuse 5000 l. and accept of 120 l. per Annum, to protect their Trade. I can only say that he told

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me so, to excuse *his paying Court and Attendance* upon the Company from Time to Time.—He owns that the Company recommended the Protection of their Trade to him; and he thought it his Duty to do it, considering *how generously they had given him leave to winter at one of their Factories*; and he *it would have been a Breach of Hospitality to have plundered them by trading with the Natives, or suffering others to have done it.* To shew their Generosity to him before he came into their Measures, I need only repeat *the Letter* they gave him at the Admiralty's Request, the 13th of May, 1741, directed to Mr. Isham and Council at Prince of Wales Fort.

Hudson's Bay House, 19th of May, 1741.

Gentlemen,

“ **N**otwithstanding our Orders to you, if Captain Middleton, who is sent abroad in the Government's Service to find out a Passage N. W. should by inevitable Necessity be brought into real Distress and Danger of his Life or Loss of his Ship, and by that Means forced to your Factory, in such case you are then to give him the best Assistance and Relief you can. We remain, &c.

BIBYE LAKE, &c.

Page 48, in his Answer here he wants to *evade and distinguish away* the Bribe they offered him; but as he told this to others, as well as to me, it was not in Confidence he acquainted me with it, and Proof can be made of it in Terms.

His Answer to the Charge against him (in saying *he would be a better Friend to the Company than ever; and that he should make the Voyage without any ones being the wiser, whether there was a Passage or not*) is entirely false, as appears by the Surgeon's and Clerk's Affidavits, and Answer before the Admiralty,

miralty, which was confirmed by the *Lieutenant*, that these Words were spoke in their Hearing to the Governor, and some of the Company's Officers at *Churchill*, and all the Words he is charg'd with; and they talk'd of it again several Times to each other, and it caus'd them to be upon the Watch, for that very Account, for the Remainder of the Voyage.

As to his Insinuation that Mr. *Smith* was my Agent, and ship'd Goods upon my Account, it is false; tho' if he had, I should not have been asham'd of it; what he sent with his Brother was upon his own Account; and, as he told me, was to the Value of 35*l.* for which, if he sold them for 2000*l.* *per Cent.* Profit, as the Company do, he might have made it 700*l.* But these Goods were put on Board, not only with the Privity, but with the Consent and Approbation of the Captain; and the Captain gave him a List of what Goods he should send, and promised, in case his Brother died, that he would sell them upon his Account. See his Account, Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. XLII.

Since in his Defence he declares that he knew nothing of their being on Board, until he got to the *Orkneys*, notwithstanding that they were forted, and put a-board by his Approbation; and that he undertook the Care of their Sale, in case *Young Smith* died in the Voyage; I must conclude, that between the Time those Goods were put on Board, and his getting to the *Orkneys*, that he had altered his Scheme, and engaged with the Company, upon proper Terms; and then not only laid down his Plan *not to let any Trade*, but to act such a Part in the Voyage, as to play a *double Game*, and make the most of it. What confirms me in this, is a Proof he has given undesignedly, in his Appendix, from the Order he got signed by his Application to the Admiralty on the 29th of *May*, 1741, to protect

protect their Trade; and in consequence thereof the Company gave him a Letter to the *Governor* and *Council* at *Moose Factory*, the very next Day the 30th, to let him into that *Factory*, and give him *Assistance*. To this Transaction I was an entire Stranger until now, tho' he communicated every other Thing to me *previous* to that Application; for it was the 26th or 27th of *May* that I delivered to him his Grace of *Newcastle's* Letter, by Orders from the Regency, to the *Hudson's Bay Company*; which he said he would carry strait to that Company, and the next Day wrote him my last Letter, wishing him a happy Voyage, of which he has given a Paragraph in the Appendix, recommending *Smith* to him, being obliged to leave Town the 29th. At that Time he certainly came into their Measures, and undertook to get an Order from the Admiralty to protect their Trade; which was to be a Sanction to him afterwards for *all* his Favours and Complaisance to the Company, which he thought would take off the Suspicion of his acting an under-hand Part with them; and upon his getting that Order, they next Day gave him a new Letter to the *Moose Factory*. See his *Appendix* p. 104. But that *Factory* being quite out of the Way of the Discovery, he probably had warmer Letters to *Churchill* *Factory*, which he has thought proper to conceal, but boasts of the *Generosity* of the Company, in letting him winter in their *Factory*, &c. For they gave him Favours there far beyond the Contents of the *Moose* Letter, in letting their own Men live in the Woods all the Winter, to give him and some of his Officers Room to lodge in the Fort. This last Letter and Order he thought proper to conceal from me.—I shall only observe that *one Expression*, which drop'd from him when he came to visit me, upon my coming to *London*, shewed an uncommon Concern for the Company;

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for, in justifying his Conduct and Behaviour, he said, *he had only one Thing he could blame himself for doing, which was* corresponding with me *when he was in the Company's Service.* To which I made no Reply, but thought he had repented of that Crime, and had now *fully* made them amends; so that from this Combination of Circumstances, it seems all calculated to carry on his Scheme under the Sanction of that Order.

But after all, he may with some Justice say that *I had a Venture in the Voyage, tho' no Goods;* which was *nine Guineas* I laid out at the *Captain's* Request, in getting a Copy of the *Hudson's Bay Charter*, with the Attorney-General's Opinion upon it, as to *their Right* of a Monopoly; wherein he gave his Opinion, that *they had no Right to an exclusive Trade, but every Merchant in England has an equal Right to trade there;* so that a Trade with the *Indians* is not *robbing* the Company, as the *Captain* asserts; but their pretended Monopoly is *robbing*, or at least *defrauding* the rest of the *British Merchants* of their legal Right. These *nine Guineas* the *Captain* offered to repay me, but I told him I would take my Chance of what he would bring me back, after a prosperous Voyage; and all he allowed me upon his Return for the Trouble I have had in it, was the *Name* of a *Cold Cape*.

Page 50, in his Answer about making Entries such as he pleased in his Log-Book, he says *there was no such Order, and the Log-Book rather abounds than is defective in Particulars.* I don't say there were Orders given about it, that would have been too flagrant; but yet he might minute down what he thought proper for his Scheme in it himself, and let others mark down only the common Occurrences of the Voyage; and I shan't say but that the Log-Book abounds with common Occurrences, yet has very little relating to the Discovery.

He denies the Fact of his *threatning to break up Boxes and take their Books and Papers from them who kept Journals*; and refers to the *Lieutenant's and Master's Answers*. No Body pretends that he durst hinder the *Lieutenant and Master* from keeping Journals, it is great Part of their Duty. *But see the Surgeon's and Clerk's Answers in his Appendix, p. 186, 187, and 191.* For it was *those* he suspected of *keeping Journals and making Observations*, and it was *no Part* of their Duty to keep any.

He says he never discountenanced any *from talking about there being a Passage*. It was only the *Lieutenant, Surgeon and Clerk*, who gave their Opinion that *there was a Passage*. The *Lieutenant* said, that *when the Threats were made, he and the Master were down the River; and upon their Return, the Captain thought proper to send them to Deer Sound to make Trials of the Tides as by Order*. None taxes the *Captain* about his not *instructing or improving his Men in the navigating Part*, his *Capacity* is not in Question, it is his *Integrity* is doubted, from his being *blinded by the Company*. To which the *Master's Answer* was all Evasion, and rather the *Captain's Defence*, wrote down and signed by the *Master*, quite different from what he owned upon Examination before the Admiralty, and therefore it has no Weight.—He says it is a mere Fiction, there being any Whales at the West End of *Wager River*. I esteem *Deer Sound*, and all above it, to be the West End of *Wager River or Streight*, it being far above *Savage Sound*, and the Whales were above *Deer Sound*.

The Words *double-tongu'd Rascals, &c.* was told to the *Surgeon and Clerk*, which they mention in their Answers; probably no other Person heard it. The *Lieutenant and Master* could not hear it, they being down the River; the others, who swear they did not hear it, were aboard the *Discovery*, and *must have*

have had long Ears. His Fears, in the next Paragraph, about being closed up with Ice is *all Cant*, there was no Ice *then* to disturb them, nor any Danger of any for *six Weeks* at least.

He says, *the limiting them to go no farther than Deer Sound, was a Blunder of his Clerk's.*

It was well he had the *Clerk* to saddle with his Blunder. But why then did he sign a *Blunder*? Could he not, when it was known, have given them a *fuller* written Order? He knew a *verbal* Order could be no Warrant against a written Order.

He again says, *it was contrary to his Instructions* to search for a Passage in Wager River against an Ebb.

Tho' the *Ebb* made out *easterly* below the Ships, yet in a *Streight*, a *western Tide* might have met them *farther West*; for the *Lieutenant*, as mentioned already, near *Deer Sound*, saw a *Counter Current* or *Tide* in the main Channel, which forced the Ice against the Flood from the *Welcome* at *Quarter Flood*; and if he had had *Time sufficient*, beyond the N. W. Bluff, to have *tryed the Tide*, probably that *Tide* which suddenly turned against them, might have been that *western Flood*; but they durst not stay to try it.

Since I wrote the foregoing Paragraph, I received the following additional Account from the *Lieutenant*, which (I think) puts the Affair out of *Dispute*, and proves that the *Wager* is undeniably a *Streight*, and no fresh Water River; and that the Captain knowing it flow'd six Foot nigh the pretended Water-fall, must have been told at the same Time, that it was a Flood Tide from the W. S. W. that brought the Boat to a *Grapple*. Mr. Rankin's Words are as follows:

“ In my Report of the 29th of *July*, 1742, I  
“ gave an Account that when I was sent up *Wager*  
“ River, and running in between some Islands and

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“ the supposed Main on the West Side of the  
 “ Branch, the Boat was in, the Tide or Freshes  
 “ suddenly turned against us, the Boat altering  
 “ the Land very much before. Now I should  
 “ have added, that finding the Boat fell a-stern,  
 “ notwithstanding we had a good Breeze of Wind  
 “ we were obliged to come to a Grapnel in twelve  
 “ Fathom Water. I then landed, and went upon  
 “ a Mountain, from whence I saw a large and spa-  
 “ cious Streight, leading away to the Southward  
 “ of the West, or W. S. W. or more southerly  
 “ by Compass. I staid some Hours upon the  
 “ Mountains; and when I returned to the Boat, I  
 “ found the Water had flow'd six Foot; so that  
 “ I was convinced that the Tide which stop'd the  
 “ Boat, and brought her to a Grapnel, was a  
 “ strong Flood Tide from the W. N. W. being  
 “ the Course we steer'd up that Branch of the Ri-  
 “ ver or Streight.

JOHN RANKIN.

In his Answer, about *the Bottle of Water*, he  
 says, *it no where appears it was taken up near a fresh  
 Inlet, and depends much upon the Matter's Answer  
 about the Waters being fresher the farther he went  
 up; and the others Affidavits, three of which were  
 upon Hear-say; to which (if it be true) I have al-  
 ready given a full Answer to account for its being  
 brackish upon the dissolving of the Ice. He says, it  
 was not taken up near a fresh Inlet, and yet he would  
 impose upon us, that the Current or Waterfall they  
 saw, was a Fall from a great fresh Water Lake,  
 which was the great Collection of Waters they saw  
 above the Islands. As to the Master's Answer about  
 the Freshness of the Water, it was quite contrary to  
 what he owned to me, and very different from  
 what he said before the Admiralty: for he owned*

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it was *brackish*, at the *farthest Place* they were at; and the *Lieutenant* expressly says *it was salt, but not to be a Judge himself, he filled three Bottles in different Places, and brought them down to the Ship, and they were there found all equally salt.* Two of his *Affidavit-men* swear it, by *Hear-say*, and the other tasted it among *dissolving Ice.* But since these swear to the *Freshness* of the Water, *who* were not up with the *Master*; how comes it, that since the *Master was swearing*, he did not get him to swear to the Water's being *fresh*, who was at the Place? But to this *material Point* he is quite silent. Is not this a *Conviction* that *he knew* it was otherwise, tho' he got him to *palliate* it in his *written Answer*? But the Truth is, that he had own'd *so much* of the *Saltiness* of the Water to the *Lords* of the *Admiralty*, and to me; and also that there was no *Ice*, and of the *Breadth* and *Direction* of the *Streight*, that he durst not swear *flagrantly* against his *former Declarations*, lest it would invalidate what he got him to swear against the *Surgeon* and *Clerk.*

In his next Paragraph he taxes me *with an Hibernicism*, in saying *the Openings they saw* were left undiscover'd. I can see no *Hibernicism* in it; were the *Openings* or *Channels discovered*, by seeing *one End* of them? To have been *discovered*, they must have been *seen throughout*, otherwise they could never know if there was a *Passage thro'* them; and his *Business* was to discover the whole, and know whether there was a *Passage through* or not.

The *Opening* or *Coves* which he here mentions, that the *Lieutenant* saw *July 25th*, were at the *Mouth* of the *River*, where no *Discovery* was wanting to be made, nor could be *useful* in the *Discovery.* He says *he made several Attempts to land on the S. W. Side, but could never do it, until the Day before he left the River*; yet tho' his *Log-Book*

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*abounds* in so many Things, neither *these* Attempts, nor his passing *that* Day, has ever been taken notice of, in either Log or Journal. I was told indeed he once went off a few Leagues from *Deer Sound*, which I suppose was the Time when his Men *tasted* or *drank* the Water, rather than *suck the Ice*; but he came strait back again, and said it was *too broad* there to venture to pass it, but did not then pretend it was from the *Quantity of Ice*; and it was plain from the *Lieutenant's Report*, before that on the 16th in the Morning *below* that Place, the Ice was almost all out of the main Channel.

He says his Instructions were still to *meet the Tide of Flood*. I say it was not, unless it was coming from the N. W. or S. W. See his *Instructions*. But in going North-eastward it is plain he met only a Flood of his *own* making, which came through a frozen Streight *not in being*. So his Answer here is *altogether false*.

He says, *they passed from Cape Dobbs to Cape Fullerton before Sun-set*, tho' it was thirty Leagues, and they had but four Hours Time for it; and by his Log it appears they went but at the Rate of about *five Knots*, which was not in *that Time* above seven Leagues; nor has he confuted *Scrogg's Tide*, by his Tide in *Wager River*; for in less than twenty Leagues they may be of very different Heights, witness in *Magellan's Streight*; but his Tides were high enough every where he tryed them, to be near an Ocean.

He says, *what Norton saw* (which he would now transfer to his *Carpenter*) *was either Wager River, or an Inland Lake, which he saw Southward of the West from Whalebone Point*. How *inconsistent* or *inconsiderate* is this Answer? *Whalebone Point* is in  $64^{\circ} 55'$ . and the Entrance of *Wager River* in  $65^{\circ}$ .

24. and from thence it runs up N. W. how then could he see it *Southward of the West* from *Whalebone Point*? Otherwise he will have it to be a *fresh Lake*, and yet it was a *clear open Sea* from *Whalebone Point*. These Answers are wrote with *profound Judgment*. *Norton's* and his *Indians Land Voyage*, as he calls it, is *all his own*, and therefore not to be believed.

The Reason he gives for not looking out for any Inlet or Opening betwixt *Churchill* and *Whalebone Point* was, because, by his *Instructions*, he was to sail N. W. from *Cary's Swan's Nest* to *Whalebone Point*. That was very true, and proper, when he sail'd from *England*, because he was to pass *Cary's Swan's Nest*; but he, upon consulting his *Officers*, did not follow it, but went away strait for *Churchill*, because it was for the good of the *Service* he went upon, in which he so far followed his *Instructions*. But the Situation was quite different, when he went from *Churchill*, for he had all this Coast to pass, before he could get to *Whalebone Point*, and the Ice not dissolved to the Northward, so that he had Time enough to make this Search, and he knew there were *Inlets* and *broken Lands* North of *Whale Cove*, from *Lovegrove* at *Churchill*; but here he must stick close to the Letter of his *Instructions*, and would not consult with his *Officers* for the Good of the *Service*, as his *Instructions* directed him. Why? Because it did not answer his *Purpose*; and says, it would not have been safe for him in departing from his *Instructions* to have searched that Coast.

His Excuse for keeping his Ships in *Savage Cove* is trifling; for there was a finer Harbour near *Deer Sound*, free from Ice, and from thence he could have gone westward without Ice; it was only in the Narrow below near the *Entrance*, where the Tide was strong, that there was any Danger from the Ice.

In his Answer to the Charge against him for not letting the *Lieutenant* take away a Man from the Factory, who perfectly understood the *Northern Indian Language*, he says, the *Master* has given a *very pertinent Answer to it* (because it was of the *Captain's* penning) and alledges those he got again were *much* fitter for his Purpose, having an *Indian*, who understood *English*, to interpret between them; and when he got them to go with him, which he could not do without giving the Governor *very considerable* Presents, he exacted a Promise from him of landing them about *Whale Cove*, or at *Brook Cobham*, and not to carry them to *England*; and says it would be *acting contrary* to his *Instructions* of *protecting* the Company's Trade, since he was *Linguist* for their *Northern Trade*. The *Lieutenant*, *Surgeon* and *Clerk*, joining fully in this Evidence, the *Captain* and *Master* durst not contradict, but endeavour to shew that he acted *better* in *not* doing it. Now 'tis plain that among the three *Indians*, they could *with Difficulty* make out *any Thing* they said, their *Southern Indian* being a *very bad* Interpreter for them; and the *Englishman* the *Lieutenant* would have taken, the *Captain* allows was a *very good* *Northern Linguist*. But he knew all the Coasts to the *Northward* so far as the Company *traded*; and at first he was *willing* to have gone, until the *Governor* prevented him; probably *with a View* of getting Presents from the *Captain*, to give him leave to take the *Northern Indians*. Now how came he to *give Presents* to the *Governor*, or *ask his Leave* to take the *Indians* with him? Had not the King a *Right*, for his Service, to take *Indians* who are *willing* to go, without his *asking Leave* of a *Petty Governor*, and *giving him Presents*, to induce him to allow it? What *Right* had he to exact a Promise of the *Captain* to leave them at *Whale Cove* or *Brook Cobham*, if



the *Indians* were willing to go to *England*? Was not all this *prostituting* the Dignity and Rights the King had to their *willing Service*, to a *Petty Governor* of a Company? Were not they, by the Secretary's Letter, required to give him *all* the Assistance they could upon the Discovery? Was not his *Subserviency* to the Governor of a Piece with his *saluting* their Fort first with the King's Ship? It is plain he either still thought himself a *Servant* to the Company, or was so deeply engaged to *serve* them, that he expected to be soon of their Company. But now the Secret of his getting the Order from the Admiralty to protect their Trade *comes out*; and he is to screen himself *under that*, for his Complaisance to the Company even to the *Prejudice* of the Service he was sent upon.

The *Captain* takes upon him to deny that the *Indians* aboard him ever signified the least of the *Copper Mines* being between 62 and 64 Deg. or *knowing any Thing* of that Coast; but both the *Surgeon* and *Clerk* affirm it. See their *Answer to Query XVII*. See also the *Appendix*, N<sup>o</sup>. XL. He next denies his knowing any Thing of the *Indians* Inclinations of coming to *England*, but excuses himself upon Account of the *Promise* he made to the Company's *Governor* to leave them near *Whale Cove* or *Brook Cobham*.

But before I enter upon this Melancholy Subject, I must here observe, that by his pretending to answer this Paper I had left with the Admiralty, Paragraph by Paragraph, which was not the Charge against him, but only some Reasons to support the Charge, he has neglected to answer the Charge brought against him in the Queries; and by this Means evaded answering some of the *most material* Articles against him; particularly the XVIIth and XVIIIth Queries, are entirely neglected in his

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Defence, and therefore I must here insert those two Queries, and refer at large to the *Answers* which are full against him, and are of an *extraordinary Nature*, to which he has made no Defence or Reply.

Query XVII. *Whether from the Rapid Tides near Brook Cobham, and from the Number of Whales seen there, they did not apprehend there might have been a Passage thereabouts; and whether, by the best Accounts they could get from the Indians, by the Interpreter they had, they did not intimate that the Streight and Copper Mine they had been at, where they saw a great many large black Fish, was somewhere thereabouts, before they fell in with the Ice; and whether the Captain did not threaten the Surgeon, upon account of his being so intimate and corresponding with the Indians, and for his attempting to come at the Knowledge of that Streight and Passage from them.*

Query XVIII. *Whether the two Northern Indians were not desirous of coming to England, and were not, contrary to their Inclinations, put ashore on an Island in 63 Deg. some Leagues from the Main, in an indifferent Boat, which they could not rightly manage, their Enemies being upon the Coast, and they far from their own Country.*

Part of the XVIIth he *denies*, and has not at all answered to the *latter Part* of it; and to the XVIIIth he has given no Answer, only his *Promise* to the *Governor*, referring to the *Master's Answer*, which is nothing to the Purpose, and to three Affidavits of *Towns, Grant and Cooper*. Now *Towns* and *Grant* were aboard the *Discovery*, and therefore swear by *Hearsay*; the *Master* says *one of them was unwilling to go*, and so *Cooper* swears; but that *afterwards they were willing*; that is, when they could not help it. But I refer to the *Lieutenant's*, and  
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particularly to the Surgeon's and Clerk's Evidence, in Answer to these Queries, which are very full; and to these the Captain has reply'd nothing, but made a vain Attempt to invalidate their Testimony by Wilson's and Macbeth's Affidavit, tho' nothing to the Purpose. See also the Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. XL. By looking into the Surgeon's and Clerk's Answers, it will appear, that the Captain at first agreed to bring them to England; but afterwards altered his Opinion, and desired that they might not know it; and that one of them parted with the Surgeon in Tears, and said he could not tell *what would become of them, at such a Distance from their Country, among their Enemies, Winter coming on, &c.* But the Captain said they would, when they came to speak English, he talking of the Copper-Mine, and Passage, and would put the Government to more Expence in attempting it again. But if he was not afraid of their making a Discovery, which would prejudice the Scheme he had entered into with the Company, why did he threaten to take off the Surgeon's Ears for conversing with them, and endeavouring to make a Vocabulary to learn their Language and teach them English, which they seemed very fond of; so that afterwards he durst not converse with them but by Stealth?

Page 64, being a summary of several Charges against him, he says *is a Repetition, of being offered 5000 l. and accepting two Years Salary, all which he has already answered;* and he thinks to carry all off with a Taunt and a Sneeer, and end his Defence with a *Coup de Maitre.*

But now, says he, *the Snake in the Grass begins to shew itself, for he sums up all with this grand Complaint; that, upon this I gave an Order, under severe Penalties, that none of my Crew should have the least Intercourse or Trade with the Natives.* My

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Lords, I have already said I was bound in Duty and Gratitude to do this, whether the Company rewarded me or not. Permit me here, my Lords, to recriminate in my Turn; and so he goes on with a Rant, insinuating that I had been disappointed of my private Gain, and upon that Account would load him with serving the Company at the Expence of the Publick; tho' I have already fully answered this Point in a former Article, yet here I must add, that if he had done his Duty in the main Part of his Voyage, none would have blamed him for his too great Friendship for the Company; but if it be plain that he neglected the Discovery, when pointed out to him in several Places; that he has made false Charts, laid down false Currents and Tides, and that he has formally laid down a large frozen Streight, for his Tide to flow in at, and his Whales to come through it, which he has made an hundred Fathoms deep, where there was no such Streight, but only a small Arm of the Sea surrounding an Island, which was but three Leagues wide, full of Islands, and fast frozen from Side to Side; and yet here pretends to be strictly just and careful of his Old Masters Interests, then the Snake in the Grass is retorted back upon him, and the Sting and Odium will lie at his Door; and it will be easily believed that he did not do this for nothing. As for my Part, I shall ever be for breaking the Company's Charter, for the Benefit of Britain; for they have no legal Right to their darling Monopoly, and have, in many Instances, forfeited their other Rights as Proprietors of the Country, not only in not attempting the Passage, which was the chief Prayer in their Petition for the Charter, but in their denying to undertake it, [See Sir Bibye Lake's Letter, N<sup>o</sup>. VI.] and in discouraging any others from undertaking it. See their Letters to their Governor

at Churchill, May 13, 1741, which he styles *great Generosity*; but even going so far as to offer Money to him to give up the Voyage, or avoid making the Discovery. They have also not only neglected settling the Countries within their Grant, as all other Proprietors have done for the Good of Britain, but will allow no others to settle in it, like the Dog in the Manger; and, by their Avarice have lost a considerable Part of the Indian Trade to the French, and allowed them to incroach upon the Countries South of the Bay; and therefore if I had sent Goods, I should have thought it not only fair but laudable; but would not, because I thought it would have taken them off from the Pursuit of the Discovery; and I charge him with it only to shew that there was a thorough good Understanding between him and the Company from the Time he left England. If therefore I had sent Goods to trade with the Natives upon more equitable Terms than the Company does, I should not have deny'd or disguised it; so that his Insinuation should have been allowed by me without thinking it any Reflexion but a Service to my Country; and I refer to his own Letters wrote to me when he was in the Company's Service, desiring me to see whether they had an Act of Parliament for their Monopoly, for without it it was illegal, and in that Case he would get Merchants enough to join in fitting out Ships to trade in the Bay; so that all his Sneer and Coup de Maitre falls upon himself, and shews that he has acted a double Part throughout, both against Crown and Company. As for me, I declared an open Enmity with the Company, from the Time he informed me that they chican'd and trifled with me, in sending out their Sloops upon a mock Discovery. See my Letter to Sir Bibye Lake, Appendix, N<sup>o</sup>. VII.

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But as a farther Instance of his *double Game* I must observe his Art in Printing his Letter to me of the 5th of *February*, 1742-3, in his *Appendix*, N<sup>o</sup>. (18) which he closes with this *Nota Bene*: *This is a rough Draught, and, to all Purposes, the same as a Letter I sent Mr. D— in answer to his of January 22; but I can't venture to say it is the same Word for Word.* All his other Letters he had true Copies of, but this (it being *more* material to alter *some* Phrases of it) is only a *rough Draught*, and the *last* Paragraph is quite omitted, lest it should expose his *double Dealing*, even to the *Company*; for when he found that I had got some Light about the Discovery from *his Journal*, and seemed resolved to enquire farther into it, he thought it would be prudent, in him, to make me believe he was on *bad Terms* with the *Company*; and thought, at the same Time, to take me off the *Quest*, by advising me to *attack the Company*, and *lay open their Trade*; and therefore made use of his *N. B.* that he might not be obliged to publish this Paragraph, on giving it out as the *full Letter*. The Paragraph is in these Words: *But I should be heartily glad you could dissolve the Company, for they have used me and all my Men who were with me very ill, and those, who voluntarily entered with me at Churchill, they refuse to pay their Wages due; neither can I get my Money for my Servants which I formerly put into their Service: There are many other Things, which have been very fatiguing to me, and no doubt must be the same to you; therefore beg leave you will conclude me to be, as I really am, with great respect, Sir, &c.*

How is this consistent with the *Duty* and *Gratitude* he owed to the *Company*, and to their *great Generosity* in allowing his Majesty's Ships to winter in their *Factory*? This shews his fluctuating Situation in playing a *double Game*, and pretending to

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serve two Matters, by which he is obliged to *expose* both.

Having thus gone through every material Paragraph of his Answer and Defence, and observed upon them, I leave it to the impartial Reader whether I was not in the right to bring his Conduct to the Scrutiny, even if I had *failed* of sufficient Proof to have *supported* my Complaint, since it was at *my* Solicitation, that the Public have bore the Expence of fitting out the Ships, and that it was upon *my* Recommendation that *he* was the Person fixed upon to *conduct* it, as I thought him a Man of Capacity and Experience in those Seas, and did *then* believe he had Integrity from his *seeming* Zeal to make the Discovery, and *pressing* so much to be employed; and am willing to hope that the Charge appears to be *well supported*, even beyond what could have been expected, in so *intricate an* *Affair*, carried on so *artfully* as to disguise the Truth, which at this Distance I could only judge of from Reason, and such Informations as I could procure to support it, from Gentlemen who had *been the Voyage*, who were very *unwilling* to criminate their Captain by their Evidence, and could not have been brought to do it, if the concealing the Discovery in so flagrant a manner, had not been to the greatest Prejudice of the Public. Having therefore taken up so much Time in shewing the *Falsity, Art* and *Evasions* he has made use of in his Defence, I shall only conclude by summing up the Nature of his Evidence, which is from *Wilson* his *Master's written Answer* to the *Queries*, from his *Log-Book* and *Journal*, and from the Affidavits of the *Master, Towns, Van Sebrick, Grant, Cooper* and *Dewilde*; for as to his *own* Assertions, they stand for nothing.

Now I throughout appeal to the *large Original Log-Book* belonging to the *Furnace*, which I saw,  
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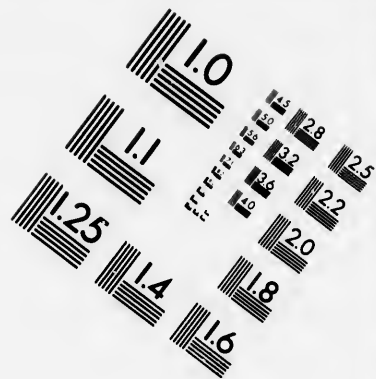
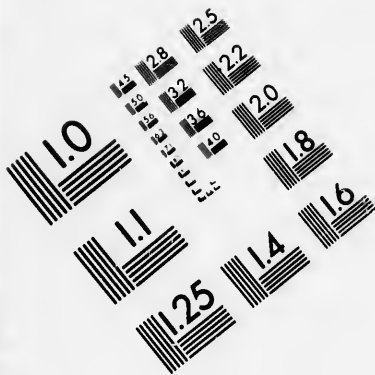
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and left in the Admiralty, in which I observe some few Things to differ from the *Pocket Log-Book*, he has printed; and from his *own Journal* kept in the *Furnace*, a Copy of which he signed and sent to me; tho' at the same Time it will be allowed me, that where any Thing appears to be minuted down from the *Captain's* singular Evidence and Assertion *contrary* to what appears upon *proper* Evidence, and from Reason, it cannot be a Test for him; yet Facts must be allowed to be *good Evidence* against him, where *sufficient Evidence* supports them. Now most of the Affidavits he has produced seem chiefly designed to *take off* the Weight of Messrs. *Thompson* and *Wigate's* Evidence against the *Captain*, it being *too strong* to be contradicted; and therefore from some *loose* Expressions they made use of in his Affidavit-men's hearing, they would alledge there was *Malice* and *Pique* in their Behaviour to the *Captain*. All that is attempted to invalidate their Evidence is from *Wilson's* and *Macbeth's* Affidavits; for *Dewilde's* is nothing to the Purpose.

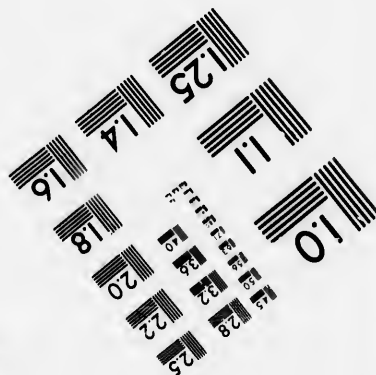
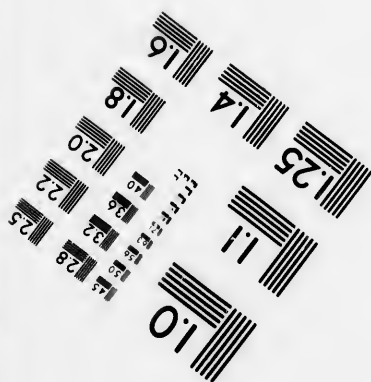
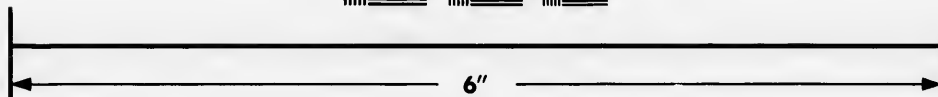
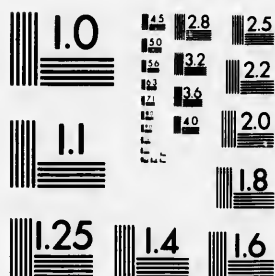
*Wilson* the *Master*, who only seems to push *that Matter*, and who swears nothing upon any *material Article*, swears in very *indeterminate* and *loose* Words, that *Thompson* and *Wigate* only wanted him to *complete a certain Purpose*; that *he might expect to be employed in Captain Middleton's Place*; and *so brought him to me*. Was there any Crime in this, if strictly true? They wanted him to declare the *Truth* against the *Captain*, who they were sure had misbehaved; for if any Thing more had been said, he proved a very willing Evidence for the *Captain*, and would *certainly* here have sworn it against them. Accordingly he came, and I have already declar'd, which I shall do upon Oath when required, that he said *the Water, as far as he had been, was salt*; that *there was a fair Channel four or five Leagues broad be-*







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yond the Islands running S. W. as far as he could see, between very high broken Lands, quite free from Ice; and that he was sure, from that, and the Whales seen, which he said must have come from the Westward, for they never come in from the East Entrance of Wager River, otherwise they must have seen them below, that there was a Passage. This, with several other Facts, he voluntarily declared to me, upon my telling him all the Interest I had in it was to have the Truth known, and have the Whole appear; which, upon my desiring it, he promised to reduce into Writing and sign it, and Mr. Wigate was to assist him in putting it into Form, which was the Occasion of Messrs. Wigate and Thompson's waiting upon him again to have it reduced into Writing; nor is it likely, if, as he swears, he should refuse to put it into Writing when I desired him, but only referred to his Journal, that Wigate and Thompson would go to him again to assist him in putting it down in Writing. Upon his leaving me, the Captain gets him to his Lodgings, and there tutors him and prevails upon him, either by Promises, or out of Compassion to him, not to come near me to give Evidence, but to refer to his Journal and Report. Now it is no Way surprizing that Mr. Thompson and Wigate upon seeing him again, should be concerned and angry at finding him shuffle and say he would reduce nothing into Writing, nor come near me any more, for he would be the Ruin of no Man, he would beg his Bread first; nor is it wonderful that I should express a Surprize at the Master's acting a Part so contrary to what he had voluntarily owned to me; and I believe I might say, *what, has the Captain got him? It was very lucky that he came here before the Captain saw him, otherwise he would not have own'd what he did!*

Now, was their bringing him to me, or endeavouring

vouring to get him to own the Truth, *criminal* in them, when they were acting for the *public Good*, in detecting the *Captain's Frauds, Neglect*, and perhaps *Corruption*? Ought they not, by all *proper Methods*, to procure Evidence to support *their own*? Nay, if they had given him Hopes of *being employed*, in case he told the Truth, is that *any way* criminal? Or was their speaking in *hard Terms* against the *Captain*, if he has misbehaved in so *shameful* a Manner, a Crime, by saying *they would have him broke*, &c. so that his *principal Evidence* has failed in proving any Thing against them; and *Macbeath's Evidence* is much less to the Purpose. As to Mr. *Wigate's* boasting that *he would do the Captain's Business*, and that *he expected to be made a Purser*, it is very natural for him to have said or thought so, when he knew the *Captain's Frauds* and *Misconduct*, &c. and that he would deserve a Reward in detecting him; nor are his Expressions about his Letters from me any way material, supposing them true; for upon their informing me by an anonymous Letter, that there was a Passage, (which was concealed by the *Captain*, thro' *Roguery*, by making Tides and frozen Streights where there were none, which *they would stand to*, and were willing to *risque their Lives in another Attempt*) I answered their Letter, directing to a feigned Name, as they appointed me, and told them if they were *real* Persons, and made good what they wrote, upon hearing from them again, I would come strait to *London*, and assist them with all my Interest in another Attempt. Now how can these *Affidavits* invalidate their Evidence? On the contrary, have they not, by *proper Evidence* and Reason, proved that there is *no frozen Streight* or *Tide* from it, such as can answer *his Purpose*, which being prov'd, makes out every other Fact, and proves that the *Tide* in  
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the *Welcome* comes from a *Western Ocean*, and all the Whales from thence according to *his own Letters*.

As to *Derwilde's* Affidavit, what does it signify? When the *Lieutenant, Surgeon* and *Clerk* had fully proved the *Captain's* Misbehaviour to the *Satisfaction* of the Lords of the Admiralty, I recommended them; and told them they would be taken care of until the Season offered for undertaking another Voyage, when they would be employed. These *Affidavits* are like Men, *drowning*, catching at Straws, and shew a *very bad Cause*; for he found their Evidence was *strong* against him.

The other Affidavits of *Towns, Van Sobriek, and Grant*, aboard the *Discovery*, cannot be evidence of what happened aboard the *Furnace*, and are all Hearsay as to the *Salt Water*; only *Van Sobriek's*, who was near *Deer Sound*; but the *Master*, who went farther, would not swear it, nor could he give such Evidence before the Admiralty; he only said *it was brackish*, which is a very *loose* Word; but the *Captain*, in his *written Answer*, got him to say that *it was fresher the farther they went up*. As to *Whales*, without *Wager River*, he has not got one in the *Furnace* to swear they saw any; so that if any were seen, it was from aboard the *Discovery*; but if that Fact be true, what is it to his Purpose? His *Frozen Streight* is gone, thro' which they were to have come: He believes they did not come round *Cary's Swan's Nest*; none are in other Parts of the Bay, but from thence to *Whale Cove*, nor are there any which come thro' *Hudson's Streight*; from whence must these have come? No where but from the *Westward*; and as they had little or no Ice in *Wager River* when they came out of it, the Whales might have come out much about the same Time from *Deer Sound*, or from *Whalebone Point*,  
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by *Cape Dobbs*; so that, without his *frozen Streight*, it won't answer his Purpose. But has he attempted to bring *any Proof* that he saw Whales there before he entered *Wager River*? And yet he affirmed he did in his Answer to mine of the 22d of *January*. So that all Facts make against him.

*Towns* and *Van Sobriek* also swear that the Flood came from the *Eastward* from the *Frozen Streight*; yet this they must take from the *Faith* of the *Captain*, for they were never ashore to know, and what he was *pleas'd* to call Flood, that they believed to be so.

His Affidavits to prove that the *Indians* went willingly ashore at *Brook Cobham* are all taken from Men who were aboard the *Discovery*. *Wilson* and *Cooper*, who were in the *Furnace*, own that *one of them* was unwilling, but he afterwards *seem'd* willing; how could he *help* it? he knew he *must* obey, so went off *without Regret!* and yet the *Master* does not swear this in his Affidavit, which would have been *more material*, when he *was Swearing*. So that upon the whole, his Affidavits and Evidence are insignificant, and all the *Facts*, *Logs* and *Journals* are against him, and support the Charge of his Misconduct.

I must only observe one Thing more, which is the *loose, incorreēt* Way some of his Creatures have sworn to in the Affidavits. *Towns* and *Grant* were both aboard the *Discovery*. *Towns* swears he was aboard the *Discovery* in *Deer Sound*, the 20th of *July*, 1742, when *Captain Middleton* and *Moor* returned from *Savage Sound*; and *Grant* swears he was at the same Time aboard the *Discovery* in *Savage Sound*, when *Captain Middleton* and *Moor* returned from above *Savage Sound*. Had *this Inconsistency* been only in the *printed Defence*, I should have taken it for an *Error in the Printing*, but as it is the same in his  
*Manuscript!*

*Manuscript* delivered in to the Admiralty, I must presume it is the same in the Original Affidavits; so that they just swore them as the *Captain* brought them prepared for them.

From these *Negleets, Omissions, false Currents, Tides, Streights, and Rivers*, which, by the *Weakness* of his Defence, are now *fully* proved against him, since his Treatment of the *Indians*, and the *Discouragement* given to those who look'd into the *main Point* of his Voyage, his *Complaisance, Defe-rence, and Respect* to the *Company*, to the *Prejudice* of the Discovery, are all *strong Proofs* against his Conduct. I may boldly affirm, that both the *Com-pany* and he know there is a *Passage*, or all this *Artifice* in *closing up* Inlets and Streights, and *opening* others, *contrary* to Truth, would not have been published in so *glaring* a manner by him; but in hopes to *prevent* all future Attempts, from the *Opinion* they had, that his *Capacity* in making the Trial, and his *Character*, would *silence* all further En-quiry about it; upon which they gave out that he had not only *not found* the Passage, but shewed that it was *impracticable* to make any *farther Attempt* to find it.

I think therefore I may boldly affirm that from *Whale Cove* in 62°. 30'. to *Wager River*, it is all broken Lands and Islands, by what *Lovegrove* saw Westward of *Whale Cove, Rankin* from *Marble Island; Fox, Norton, and Scroggs*, as far as *Whale-bone Point; and Rankin and Wilson* from the West Bluff in *Wager Streight*. This is proved from the high and rapid Tides all along that Coast, as far as *Cape Frigid*, which, from the Time of the Tide, and Course, is now proved to come from the *Western Ocean*, and confirmed by their Height and Ra-pidity. For the Tide, instead of being *later* the farther from his *pretended Frozen Streight*, is *earlier*



as far as *Whale Cove*; for he owns from *Kelsey*, as also the Sloops who were at *Whale Cove* in 1737, that a W. S. W. Moon made High-water there, it is now proved that a West Moon makes High-water from *Marble Island* to the Entrance of *Wager Streight*; and at *Cape Frigid* a N. W. Moon makes High-water: This proves that *Whale Cove* is nearest the *Western Ocean*, and the Tide flowing from the West at *Marble Island*, is also a confirmative Proof. He also owns, in *Scrogg's Journal*, that the Flood in the *Welcome* forced him upon the East Coast, which proves that it came through those broken Lands on the West of the *Welcome*; the Number of Whales, seen all along that broken Coast, confirms the whole, which is also attested by the several *Northern Indians*. He also owns that the Eastern Tide is spent at *Mansell's Isle* and *Cary's Swan's Nest*; and also North of *Mill Isles*, and that no Whales came thro' *Hudson's Streight*, or round *Cary's Swan's Nest*; so that *his frozen Streight* being a Chimera of his own, all Circumstances coincide in *making out the Passage*.

Since then from Captain *Middleton's* publishing his Defence, and thereby laying me under an Obligation to answer it, the several *Steps* taken in making out this Discovery are made public to all the Trading Nations in *Europe*, which I hitherto have endeavoured to conceal from Foreigners, until we should have been able to have brought it to Perfection; and since a very great Benefit must accrue to *Britain* by our being the *Discoverers* and *first Possessors* of the Countries and Trade thro' the Passage, which will give us a Right *preferable* to others, according to the settled Maxims laid down by the several Nations in *Europe*, upon their fixing Colonies abroad, I am humbly of Opinion that all who consider it, will think it a prudent Step in the Government to

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proceed upon the Discovery, as soon as the Season is proper; in order to prevent other Nations from reaping the Benefit of such Discoveries to our Prejudice, which they can only do by our Neglect; and I make no doubt but (with the divine Protection, which *Britain* has long enjoyed) Success will crown the Undertaking.

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## P O S T C R I P T.

**CAPT. MOOR**, late Commander of His Majesty's *Pink* the *DISCOVERY*, having answered *several Queries* sent to him from the Lords of the Admiralty since I had committed the foregoing Papers to Press, I think it will be proper to insert their Lordships Order to him, with their *Queries* and his *Answer* to them, and place them at the End of the *Appendix*, whereby all the Materials for coming at the *Truth* of *Capt. Middleton's Behaviour* during his Voyage, and the *Justness* of the Draughts he has publish'd, in relation to *His Frozen Strait, Tides, Currents, Rivers, &c.* may be more fully explain'd to the Reader, who by comparing the different *Answers* will more readily discern the Truth: Therefore, to what I have already said, I must only observe, That, tho' *Capt. Moor* is a near Relation to *Capt. Middleton*, and has throughout, in all his *Answers*, dealt as tenderly with his Friend's Character as the Regard to his own Honour, Integrity and *Publick Justice* would permit him, yet he has, in *nothing material*, approv'd of his Relation's Conduct, or shew'd that *Capt. Middleton* has laid down in his Draughts,

Draughts, or describ'd in his Writings, any thing of the Tides, Currents, Streights, &c. with that Exactness the Nature of the Service he was order'd upon requir'd; but, on the contrary, Capt. *Moor* has confirm'd the most material Articles I have objected to in Capt. *Middleton's* Conduct relating to the *Publick Trust* repos'd in him by the Lords of the Admiralty.

I. Capt. *Moor* allows that the Tide, in the middle of *Hudson's* Streight, looses half the Force it has at the Entrance; and that at the West End of the Streight, from *Salisbury* to the *North Main*, it is but four or five Leagues wide; and that *Nottingham* is not more from the *North Main* than seven or eight Leagues: Yet Capt. *Middleton* has laid it down in his Draughts, *much wider*, in order to carry a Tide to *HIS Frozen Streight*.

II. Capt. *Moor* allows there was no Ice to prevent their looking into any Openings or Inlets, until they came to  $63^{\circ}.40'$ . nor any until they got into the *Welcome*, except what they call *Sailing Ice*.

III. He owns that *Middleton* hoisted anchoring Colours in  $63^{\circ}.20'$ , and had fine Weather, and smooth Water, but did not anchor, tho' it would have been very proper, and of Service, to have known the Tide there; that, by his Trial, he thinks the Tide ran there *more than three Knots*, but could not tell whether it was *Flood* or *Ebb*.

IV. He says that it would have been right to have search'd the Coast South of the *Welcome*, and particularly where *Scroggs* found such great Tides; but endeavours to excuse him, by saying his Instructions were to pass *Whalebone Point*, which would have been right in going from *England*, but was not for the Good of the Service in going from *Churchill*, and therefore he should have consulted his Officers, and done for the best of the Service.

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V. He owns the Tide in *Wager* River ran above seven Knots, tho' the Captain tax'd me with saying it ran between six and nine Knots.

VI. When he was with the Captain above *Deer Sound*, he says, about a Quarter of a Mile from the Shore, the Men that tasted the Water in their Hands, said it was not very salt. They afterwards went above a Quarter of the Way to the Mid-channel, and then returned. He says he believes *Middleton* intended going over when he left the Tent. There was Ice driving with the Tide, but none to prevent their passing.

VII. He acknowledges when the Lieutenant brought back three Bottles of Water from different Places, when he was beyond the West Bluff, he was present when the Captain tasted each, and owned that the Bottle which was taken up farthest West was the saltest.

VIII. He says he saw no Whales but above *Deer Sound*, and at *Brook Cobham*, near *Marble Island*.

IX. He says he saw plainly the Opening or Streight between Cape *Frigid* and the *Low Beach*, which was not above three Miles wide; that he knew nothing of a frozen Streight, but what he had from Captain *Middleton*, and the rest that were there; but there was no such Tide there (although so narrow) as in *Wager* River.

X. He says he had no Opportunity of trying the Tides in the *Welcome* upon his Return, being obliged to crowd all the Sail he could to keep up with the *Furnace*; and was seldom near enough to know whether it was main Land or Islands.

XI. That the Boat the *Indians* were put in was very indifferent, nor did they know how to manage it, and their Enemies the *Eskimaux* were very numerous upon the Coast.

XII. That he heard the Captain say, more than once, that he would be able to make the Voyage, and

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*none on Board should be able to know whether there was a Passage or not; and that he would be a better Friend to the Company than ever.*

From these Answers, which are wrote down with all the Tenderness he could shew to the Captain (consistent with public Justice) it plainly appears that his Fresh-water River *Wager*, his great Frozen Streight, and vast Tide running through it, his Whales coming under it, and North-eastern Flood, are all false, and that he never thoroughly examined any Part of the West Side of the *Welcome*; and that his Tides there were more rapid than he has allowed, yet would not come to an Anchor to make any Observations, tho' it was fine Weather and smooth Water. I need say no more upon the whole, but refer to Captain *Moor's* Answers, and also the *Lieutenant's* Paper signed by him and several Men on Board, which are in the *Appendix*, N<sup>o</sup>. XLIII.

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## A P P E N D I X.

*Captain Middleton's first Letter to me.*

N<sup>o</sup>. I.

SIR, *London, January 16, 1735.*

I Had the Honour to receive your Letter dated from *Dublin* the 23<sup>d</sup> *ult.* the Contents whereof I communicated immediately to Sir *Bibye Lake*, who allows me the Liberty to inform you, that the Company did, by the Ships which failed hence last Year, transmit your Directions to their Agent at *Churchill*, for preparing a Sloop, and such other Matters as should be necessary to prosecute the Discovery you mention; about which they design to give their farther Instructions next Season.

I was not at *Churchill* myself last Summer, as you seem to think, but at *Albany*; and I could not there receive any new Information about the Probability of a Passage. I am, Sir,

*Your most obedient Servant,*  
Christo. Middleton.

*A rough Draught of my Letter to Sir Bibye Lake in April, 1736.*

N<sup>o</sup>. II.

SIR,

BY a Letter I had from Captain *Middleton* last Winter, which he had communicated to you, I find you were so good as to give proper Directions

tions to your Governor of *Churchill*, to fit out a Sloop to attempt the Passage at *Ne Ultra*; and that you would continue your Instructions to the same Purpose next Spring by the Ships you send into the Bay. The Hurry I have been in of late prevented my making my proper Acknowledgments to you and the Company, for your so readily promoting a farther Attempt of that Passage after your former Disappointments, upon the Reasons I laid before you, which were the Foundation of my firm Belief that there must be an easy Passage from *Ne Ultra*.

Since you were pleased to approve of the Reasons I offered, why a fresh Attempt should be made to discover that Passage, I shall beg leave to offer my Thoughts of the manner in which the Attempt may be made, with most Certainty and least Expence, and what Observations the Masters of the Sloops ought to make and send you, in order to your forming your Judgment, whether they have taken the proper Method and Course to find the Passage; in order to your prosecuting it, in case their Accounts be satisfactory, with Advantage to your Company, and Benefit of *England*.

I think two Sloops would be necessary; and they ought to be no larger than is requisite to protect them from the Natives (in case any should appear) in the Creeks, into which they put from time to time, as they coast along the Shore; and they ought not to draw above four Feet Water. They ought each to keep a particular Journal of their Course, in case they at any Time separate from each other, which (if possible) they ought to avoid. The earlier in Summer they sail from *Churchill* the better, before the Ice breaks up in the Bay; for since they draw little Water, they may sail along the Shore within the Ice. They ought to make the best of their Way, until they come to the Latitude 64°.

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without being inquisitive about the Harbours or Creeks from *Churchill* to that Latitude, unless blowing Weather or contrary Winds make them take shelter in their Passage; and then they ought to take the Soundings and Bearings of the Lands, the setting and rising of the Tides, and Boldness or Height of the Coast. When they come to  $64^{\circ}$ . they must be very exact about the Tides, whether they meet the Flood coming from the W. or N. W. as the Lands lie, and whether it flows half Tide in the Offing, whether it be earlier upon the southing of the Moon than at *Churchill*, and whether it rises higher; and also observe the Variation, and whether the Coast be bolder, or whether there be more or less Ice than farther down in the Bay; and what Fish appear, whether Whales or other Fish; and as they sail along northerly or westerly, if the Coast falls off, as it is expected, they must observe to look out for a Creek or Harbour, in case they should take Harbour, and whether any Signs of Inhabitants, and must endeavour to keep in with the Western Coast; and if they find an open Sea to Westward, after they pass  $65^{\circ}$ . and the Land should fall away to Westward, and the Tide of Flood meets them, and an earlier Moon make full Sea, then the Passage is gained; and they may only sail 50 or 100 Leagues farther Westward, and look out for an Harbour for Ships, which may go next Season, and then return to *Churchill* for fear of any Disaster, and send over a Journal to the Company of their Observations.

By proceeding after this Manner, a Discovery may be made for a trifling Expence; and one Summer may ascertain whether there is a Passage or not. Copies of their Journals should be kept at *Churchill*, and the Original should be brought over for the Company's Satisfaction.

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These, Sir, I think are some of the Instructions which may be given, which I submit to your Judgment; to which may be added such farther Directions as the Governor of *Churchill* and the Captains trading to the Bay think proper.

I should be infinitely obliged to you if you would favour me with an Account of what Steps you take in prosecuting this Discovery; and at the Return of the Ships, to let me know what Attempts have been made, and what Observations are returned to you, for it would be the greatest Pleasure to me to hear that you had succeeded in the Attempt.

I wish you Success in all your Affairs, and am, &c.

*In Summer (1737) I was in London, and waited upon Sir Bibye Lake, who then told me they had ordered the Sloops to try the Passage that Summer.*

*Captain Middleton was then upon his Voyage, so I had no farther Correspondence with him, until the Ships returned in October, when I had the following Letter from him:*

N°. III.

SIR,

London, Nov. 5, 1737.

**I** Am now (thank God) safely arrived from *Hudson's Bay*, and thought proper to inform you that the Company sent two Sloops upon the Discovery this last Summer; but, in my Opinion, the People on board were not duly qualified for such an Undertaking. They prosecuted their Voyage no farther than the Latit.  $62^{\circ}. \frac{1}{4}$  North, and returned without making any new or useful Discovery, so far as I can learn. They found a great many Islands, Abundance of Black Whale, but no very great Tides, the highest about two Fathoms, the Flood coming from the Northward. If the Expedition was undertaken in good earnest, and proper Persons employed,

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employed, with suitable Encouragement, it would soon determine what Success might be expected; and it seems not impossible but a Passage would be found. If you should be in *London* this Winter or next Spring, I shall be extremely glad of the Honour to wait upon you, and tender my Service in any Thing that may be in my Power. In the mean Time you'll be pleased to do me the Favour of signifying the Receipt of this Letter, and so good as to conceal any Intelligence I may have an Opportunity to give you from Time to Time of this Affair.

Be pleased to direct for me in *London Street*, near *Ratcliff Cross*, and believe me to be, with the highest Esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Christ. Middleton.

*This I answered in the latter End of November, of which the following is a rough Draught; and at the same time wrote to Sir Bibye Lake:*

N<sup>o</sup>. IV.

SIR,

I Had the Favour of yours of the 5th Instant Yesterday, and am exceedingly obliged to you for the Information you have given me in relation to the late Attempt for the N. W. Discovery.

I must join with you that they seem not to have been duly qualified, or they would not have stop'd short at  $62^{\circ} \frac{1}{4}$  N. and returned before they got to  $64^{\circ} 10'$ , where *Fox* and *Button* had been: However, it is so far an Encouragement, as it confirms the Tide's flowing from the North, and the Whales there must come from that Side, none coming thro' *Hudson's Streight*. The Tide there, tho' only two Fathom, is much higher than in the Bottom

of the Bay, and consequently can't come in thro' the Straights. I am, from the Confirmation of these alone, convinced of a Passage; and nothing is wanting but a Person of Judgment and Capacity to make a thorough Discovery. I'm sorry I can't be over next Spring, having only returned from *London* three Months ago; but even from hence can promote its being effectually set on Foot by Sir *Charles Wager*, in case the Company should not heartily engage in it; and you may be assured, whatever farther Light you can give me in it, shall not be discovered by me, but just so far as you will give me Leave, nor your Name mentioned. However I hope for a more particular Account, if you can, of their Journal.

Last Summer, when I was over, I waited upon Sir *Bibye Lake*, and he told me they had given Instructions to their Commander at *Churchill* River to fit out Sloops for the Discovery; so I shall write to him by this Post, as if I had heard nothing, but only to desire him, since I hear their Ships are returned, to let me know what Accounts they have had; and if any Thing has been done, that he would send me an Extract of their Journal for my Animadversions, that I may form a Judgment of it; and by his Answer I shall judge whether they are in earnest in prosecuting the Discovery, and can form my Measures accordingly. And if I knew your Inclinations as to your own attempting it, or any of your Friends, I would promote it, with Sir *R. W.* in case the Company don't effectually set about it; for whoever will effect it, will certainly deserve a Reward from the Public. I am, &c.

*The following is the rough Draught of mine to Sir Bibye Lake, the same Post.*

N<sup>o</sup>. V.

N<sup>o</sup>. V.

SIR,

**H**AVING an Account in the Public Papers that your Ships are returned from *Hudson's Bay*, it would be a great Pleasure to me, to know if the Sloops had made any Progress in the Discovery of the N. W. Passage by *Ne Ultra*, according to the Instructions that were sent them from *London*, of which you were pleased to inform me last Summer.

If they were sent out, and made any Progress, I should be much obliged to you for an Extract of their Journals, and the Observations they made, that I might form a Judgment of their Abilities, and how far they confirm or contradict those who went before them, and from thence form a Judgment of the Probability of the Passage.

I shall trouble you no more, but wish you Success in all your Undertakings, and am with great Esteem, &c.

*In Answer to this I had the following Letter.*

N<sup>o</sup>. VI.

SIR,

*London, Dec. 16, 1737.*

**I** Have received your Favour of the 20th past, and should be very glad the great Care and Charge the Company have been at would have furnished me with an Answer more to your Satisfaction.

The Sloops, according to the Company's Orders, set out from *Churchill* very early in the Spring, well provided with every Thing which could be thought necessary to make all possible Discovery, and mann'd with the ablest Hands we could procure; but they could not find any Rivers or Inlets on the Western Coast to the North of *Churchill*, nor any the least

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Appearance of a Passage, altho' they remained out till the 22d of *August*.

I have prevailed with the Company to make this Attempt in Compliance with your pressing Impor- tunity, which I assure you has been attended with the utmost Danger of our Vessels and Mens Lives, and in which we lost one of our Governors in *Hud- son's Bay*; and our Captains, who have been old Northwesters, have so terrible an Opinion of go- ing to the Northward, that it was with great Dif- ficulty we prevailed upon one of them to under- take to go and see what was become of the Sloops, and what Success they had met with. In this Si- tuation I hope you will excuse me from running the Company into any farther Danger or Expence, for I am already blamed a good deal for that I have already persuaded them to undertake in this Mat- ter. I am, Sir, with great Esteem and sincere good Wishes for your Health and Happiness,

*Your most humble Servant,*

Bibye Lake.

*This I answered, of which the following is a rough Draught :*

Nº. VII.

SIR,

I Had the Favour of yours in relation to your Attempt last Summer by two Sloops to find out the N. W. Passage, and am very much obliged to you alone, Sir, for what you have done, though without Success, but can't say the same for the Company; because I must beg Leave to say, by the Manner of communicating it to me, without their sending me a Journal of the Sloops Proceed- ings, and their Observations, for my animadver- ting

ing upon, (which I dare say from your Goodness you would have done, had it been agreeable to the Company that I should have seen it) that they were not inclinable that a Discovery should be made, tho' the whole Tenor of their Charter shews, that the great Powers and Royalties granted to them was in order to their making that Discovery.

Since then they don't think proper to let me know how far the Sloops proceeded, and what Obstacles they met with, or Observations they made, pursuant to the Instructions you gave them (for I dare say you gave those I sent you to give, or at least others more particular) you must give me leave to animadvert upon so much as you think proper to acquaint me with.

Were they mann'd by Sailors capable of keeping any Journals, or in the least knowing the Art of Navigation? Was it probable, if they behaved as they ought to do, that they should have been out early in the Spring, and continue out until the 22d of *August*, and in that Time not be able to sail two hundred Leagues? For it is not so far from *Churchill* to *Ne Ultra*, the Difference of Latitude not being more than six Degrees; if they trifled away their Time in looking out for Inlets or a Passage to Southward of it, they did not know their Business, nor follow their Instructions, or they were unwilling to find out whether there was a Passage or not. Had they been as far as 65°. N. and had met with any Thing to obstruct their Passage, by being land-lock'd, or meeting with Ice, they would have produced their Journals, and acquainted the Company with it, which not having done, otherwise you would have acquainted me with it, it is plain to a Demonstration, that they have been idle or faulty, or thought it might please the Company that no Passage should be found: For to say that they were afraid to go to 66°. Latit. when they have

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have an open Sea, and no Ice in that Season to obstruct them, when the Whale Fishers, both at *Spitzborg* and in *Baffens Bay*, sail every Year to 78°. and 80°. is scarce credible. As to your mentioning the Loss of one of your Governors in the Attempt, which I suppose was in the former Attempt, and not this made last Summer, and also the sending out a Captain to know what was come of the Sloops, which I apprehend was also before, since the Sloops came back in good Time, it is only by way of Discouragement, to prevent any farther Attempt. However, since your Company is unwilling to make the Attempt, I shall be far from desiring them to do it. As for my own Part, I am not only convinced that it is practicable, but also that it is easy, and no way dangerous, after passing *Hudson's* Streight. I only apply'd to them as I thought it not only their Interest that they should find it, but that it was also expected from them by their Charter; yet since they are pleased to neglect and despise it, I shall now apply myself to others who I believe will undertake it cheerfully, as they are convinced it will be a national Benefit: For, as I am willing that *England* should reap the Benefit of it, I shall not publish to the World the full Proof I have of a Passage, because I know other Nations would attempt it before us, that they might set up a Right to the Trade thro' it, as the first Discoverers.

Thus, Sir, I have taken the Liberty of animadverting upon so much as your Company are pleased to communicate to me by you, being fully convinced that you would have communicated the Journals to me if it had been agreeable to them; but for the future I shall not desire to put them to any Trouble or farther Expence to gratify my Curiosity, but hope to let them see the Passage may be found out without giving them farther Trouble.

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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 :*

N<sup>o</sup>. 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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the Knowledge of my having any Intention of accepting such an Offer, I have too much Reason to apprehend they would immediately discard me; so that what I now write being unknown to them, I rely on your Honour will not be divulged to my Prejudice. In short, I believe the Company think it their Interest rather to prevent than forward new Discoveries in that Part of the World; and for that Reason they will not suffer any of our Journals to be made public. All the Intimation I am able to give, is, that the Tides rise more with a N. and N. W. Wind at neap Tides, than ever the Spring Tides do at *Churchill* or *Albany* with a southerly or easterly Wind; and as there is little or no Tide between *Mansfield* and *Cory's Swan's Nest*, nor any in the N. or N. N. W. of *Mill Isles* in that Bay, it must come from the *Welcome*, which cannot be far from some Western Ocean. Also in Mr. *John Scrogg's* Journal, in 1722, he mentions that in Latit. 64°. 56'. the Tide ebb'd five Fathoms, but gives no Account which Way or from whence the Flood came; and they all agree that a great many black Whales are seen in the *Welcome*, whereas I don't remember to have seen any in other Parts of *Hudson's Bay*, and I have been in all Parts of it, except the *Welcome*, all which are favourable Circumstances. I shall be glad at all Times to contribute what I can to your Information, and beg you'll believe me to be, Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

Christ. Middleton.

*When I sent him the Copy of Sir Bibye Lake's Letter, and my Answer, I got the following Answer from him.*

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N<sup>o</sup>. IX.

SIR,

*London, Feb. 27, 1737.*

I Am honoured with your Letter of the 22d Instant, wherein you are so good as to communicate to me Sir *Bibye Lake's* Letter and your Answer, for which Favour I am very much obliged to you. The Remarks you make on the Proceedings and Conduct of the Persons sent last Year to make the Discovery are exceedingly just and proper; and had they been really in earnest, as well as duly qualified to undertake it, they had certainly a fine Opportunity of furnishing better Observations and prosecuting their Voyage farther and to more Advantage than any that went before them.

What the Company intend to do hereafter I am entirely a Stranger to, as they keep every Thing a Secret; and from some Questions I have been lately asked, I found they seem'd suspicious of my corresponding with you. To remove which Jealousy, I returned such Answers as perhaps I should not have done had I been independant of them. I return you many Thanks for the good Opinion you are pleas'd to entertain of me, and shall be glad of all Opportunities to testify with how much Respect I am, Sir,

*Your most obedient,**And obliged humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*On the 20th of February I wrote Letters to Sir C. Wager, Mr. W. and Colonel Bladen, acquainting them with the Usage I had received from the Company, notwithstanding the Prospect there was of Success, had they prosecuted it in earnest, letting Sir Charles know that now I had no other Resource but*

to get it undertaken by the Public, and hop'd he would get it promoted, by sending out two Sloops from the Admiralty. To which he was pleas'd to send me the following Letter :

N<sup>o</sup>. X.

SIR, *Admiralty-Office, March 4, 1737-8.*

I Received the Favour of your Letter of the 20th past. I believe you judge very right that the *Hudson's Bay* Company do not desire to have any Body interfere with them in the Fur Trade in those Parts; they seem to be content with what they have, and make (I believe) considerable Profit by it; and if it should be farther extended, which might be the Case if a farther Discovery was made: For tho' they should not find a navigable Passage thro' into the South, they might probably find *Indian Nations*, from whom Furs might be bought cheaper than they are bought in *Hudson's Bay*, and that would be a Disadvantage to their Trade.

The Probabilities of finding a Passage, as you propose, seem to be very strong; the Flood coming that Way is almost a Demonstration; what Difficulties may be in the Execution can't be foreseen. If a Passage could be found into the South Sea, it would open a very large Field, and very probably of a very profitable Commerce; but the first Projectors, let the Affair succeed never so well, have seldom if ever found their Account in it. However, that should not hinder others from exerting themselves in the discovering any Thing that may be advantageous to the Public; but a Spirit of that Kind seems to have been asleep for many Years. War may have perhaps prevented, in some Measure, and diverted Mens Thoughts from any Enterprize of that Nature. I confess I have myself

myself had Thoughts of that kind, and especially since I read your Manuscript of a Probability of a N. W. Passage to the South Sea, but I have found but very few that were willing to bestow any Thoughts about it. I remember Lord *Granard* and I have talk'd about it sometimes, but it was but Talk, other Things and Business nearer Home has employed our Time and Thoughts too. I think the best Way to undertake such a Discovery, is to have, as you propose, two proper Vessels to go at a proper Time of the Year, and to winter there, if it was found necessary; and to carry with them a Cargo, not a great one, of Goods proper to trade with any *Indians* they may meet with; and capable and honest People to be employed in the Expedition, if such are to be found in the World, which I doubt; and ten or a dozen Persons, or more if thought proper, engaged in it, who would advance Money sufficient to carry it on, who may in Time, if it should succeed, be better intitled to the Name of the N. W. or South Sea Company, than the present South Sea Company has to that Name, who are not permitted to trade in any one Place within the Limits of their Charter, which made such an Eclat at the first establishing it. If this should be once agreed on, and proper Persons be found to join in it, it may then be considered what Authority may be proper to obtain from the Crown, that the first that go and succeed, may not only beat the Bush, and others come afterwards to catch the Hare. For tho' I do not much like exclusive Companies, where it is not absolutely necessary, yet I would not have the Advantages that may be found by some, be given away to others. As to Vessels being sent at the Public Expence, tho' it would not be great, yet the Parliament may think, especially at this Time, that we ought not to play with the Money they give us, for other and particular

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ticular Services. However, if Sir *Robert Walpole*, or other proper Persons, should think that the Government should attempt it at the Public Expence, I shall not be against it. I am, Sir,

*Your most humble Servant,*

Charles Wager.

*I acquainted Captain Middleton with my writing to these Gentlemen, and sent him a Copy of the above Answer from Sir Charles Wager, to which I had the following Answer :*

Nº. XI.

SIR,

*London, April 8, 1738.*

I AM honoured with yours of the 20th *Ult.* and observe, that altho' the uneasy Situation of Affairs may have rendered your Application in Behalf of the Discovery fruitless at this Time, yet you intend to push the Attempt next Season, when you come to *England*; and then I hope you will find the Circumstances of the Times more favourable. I return you many Thanks for the kind Assurances of your Friendship and Interest in recommending me as a proper Person to be employed in so great an Undertaking, and shall, according to your Request, make all such farther Enquiries and Observations this Voyage as may lie in my Power.

I am particularly obliged to you for the Favour of your communicating to me a Copy of Sir *Charles Wager's* Letter; and if I can make any Judgment from the Tenor of it, he seems not to have any hearty Inclination for the Enterprize: For tho' he acknowledges the Probability of a Passage, yet he writes with so much Indifference about it; and, in my Opinion, his whole Answer is very superficial, and his Objections not very weighty. That

of the usual ill Fate of the first Projectors is a common Topic, and not their Fault, but their Misfortune in not finding due Encouragement. I hope he entertains too ill an Opinion of the World, bad as it is, when he doubts whether any capable and honest People are to be found for undertaking the Expedition. I believe indeed he is very much in the right as to the *Hudson's Bay* Company's being content with what they have, and their not caring to extend their Trade any farther. I know not whether, from an intimate Acquaintance with some of the Directors, *Sir Charles Wager* may not be a little attached to their Interest; for tho' he says, if *Sir Robert Walpole* thinks that the Government should attempt it at the public Expence, he shall not be against it; yet this seems to be said in a very slight Manner, and not with that Heartiness I could wish.

What you propose, that the Government should allow a sufficient Premium for the Discovery, in case of Success, and that they should think fit to allow a free Trade through it, must be thought very reasonable; especially as Companies with exclusive Privileges are so generally disliked. Whether it would be needful to apply to Parliament for a Resumption of so much of the Grant to the *Hudson's Bay* Company as intitles them to the Benefit of the Trade, I am under some Doubt, because I know not whether they derive that Privilege by Act of Parliament, or only by a Grant from the Crown; if it be from the latter, I apprehend there is an Act made in the Reign of King *James I.* which has abridg'd the Prerogative in their Power of granting exclusive Privileges; and if that be the Case, I believe it would not be difficult to find three or four Persons who would be at the Charge of fitting out two Sloops to winter there, in order to prosecute the Discovery, provided they might have

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have the Liberty of trading in the Bay, without being called to an Account for it. It is not possible to pass the Winter to Northward of *Sburcill*, neither is there any Hopes of a gainful Trade at present with the Northern *Indians*; so that I should be glad to know whether the Company have an Act of Parliament to confirm their Charter or not; and if you hear from *H. Walpole* or *Col. Bladen* in Favour of the Attempt, I shall be much obliged to you, if you please to acquaint me of it. I reckon we shall sail about the 20th of next Month. And am, with the greatest Regard, Sir,

*Your obliged humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*This I answered the 17th, to which I had the following Reply :*

Nº. XII.

SIR,

*London, May 15, 1738.*

I Have the Favour of yours dated from *Lisburn*, *April 17*, and am convinced that the Situation of our public Affairs is such at present, that no Proposal could be properly made to the Ministry about the Discovery at this Time: However, I make no question but you may be able to influence *Sir Charles Wager* and others to give Encouragement for it, when the Circumstances of the Times alter for the better. Mean while I shall continue making all such Observations as may tend to promote the Undertaking; and before I received your last Letter, I had proposed something of that kind to the Company, but they took no notice of it, which shews they have no Design of prosecuting that Design at all, even where it would be no Detriment

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or Delay to our Voyage. In four or five Days we shall sail from hence, and if it please God to grant me a safe Return, you shall hear from me on our Arrival, and from what you wrote before I hope for the Honour of seeing you next Spring. In the Interim I wish you all Health and Prosperity, and am, with the greatest Regard, Sir,

*Your obliged humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

P. S. I am now ordered by the Company to go to the South Parts of the Bay, which, in some Respect, may disappoint me of making the Observations I propos'd to them.

*Upon his Return I had the following Letter from him :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XIII.

SIR,

*London, October 29, 1738.*

I Have the Pleasure to acquaint you of our safe Arrival from *Hudson's Bay*, and wish it had been in my Power to communicate to you any Thing that might give new Light towards a farther Discovery ; but as I was ordered to the Southern Part of the Bay, I had no Opportunity of making any Observations myself ; and tho' the Company sent a Sloop to the Northward this Summer from *Churchill*, yet she returned, in about ten Days, without making any one useful Discovery. When you find it proper to prosecute your Design, I shall be glad to give any Assistance in my Power, and assure you that, on all Occasions, I shall be ready to shew that I am, with the greatest Respect, Sir,

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

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*This I answered, shewing him that there was no Prospect of attempting it this Season by the Publick. To which I received the following Answer :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XIV.

SIR,

*London, Dec. 18, 1738.*

I Am honoured with your Letter of the 18th *Ult.* and am entirely of the same Opinion with you, that the present Posture of Affairs is not so settled as to give Hopes that the Government would embark in the Discovery next Season; but whenever a proper Opportunity may offer itself, I apprehend the most likely and feasible of the several Methods you are pleased to mention will be to engage the Government to give Instructions to the Admiralty to pursue the Discovery in such a Manner as shall be judg'd convenient, for I fear it would be very difficult to obtain any Encouragement in a parliamentary Way, so many Oppositions generally arising upon Debates for executing any Schemes that have the Appearance of Projects; not but a parliamentary Sanction would certainly be the best, if it could be procur'd; and that you will be able to form a much better Judgment than I can, when you are over next Summer, and have the Opportunity of discoursing upon it with such Gentlemen as may have a great Influence and Inclination to promote it. As to the *South Sea Company*, they have hitherto had so little Success in every Branch of Trade they have been entitled to carry on, that the Proprietors would hardly be willing to expend any Money of the Company's in striking out a new one. However, when you are in *London*, and have Leisure to push it, I am sure your Prudence and Experience will suggest to you much better Methods and Expedients for removing any Difficulties that may attend the Execution than I can pretend

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to offer; and therefore I can only assure you that (so far as lies in my Power) I shall be willing and ready to promote it to the utmost, being, with most sincere Regard, Sir,

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*Thus Things stood till I went over in April, 1739, when we met; but finding it not a proper Time to push it, he was only to continue to make proper Observations, and get what Accounts he could in the Bay; and upon his going out he wrote me the following Letter :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XV.

SIR,

*Yarmouth, May 24, 1739.*

**A**S I am now upon my Departure from *England*, and had not an Opportunity, thro' the Hurry of my Business, to wait upon you in Person, I thought proper to assure you, that I have so ordered my Affairs as to be ready next Year to undertake the Discovery, in case you should find Means to have it put in Execution, when the Season comes on, tho' I am doubtful our national Concerns are not so thoroughly settled as to give our Ministry Leisure to think of it: However that be, you may depend upon the Sincerity of my Intentions, and Readiness to promote the Undertaking, (if it please God to bless me with Health) whenever Matters shall be ripe for it. In the mean Time I heartily wish you Health and Prosperity, and am, Sir,

*Your faithful humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

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Upon his Return I had the following Letter from him :

N<sup>o</sup>. XVI.

Honoured Sir, London, O<sup>t</sup>ob. 18, 1739.

I Think it my Duty to embrace the first Opportunity of acquainting you with our safe Arrival, and of returning you my Thanks for the Respect you were pleased to shew me before my Departure. I should have been extremely glad to have seen you at *London* at this Juncture, where I find our Preparations for War more vigorous than ever, and consequently all Thoughts of Application about the former Design fruitless, till a more convenient Season : But as so great a Number of Men of War have been already fitted out, as to take almost all our old Officers into Commission, and several Twenty-Gun Ships are now building, I should not doubt but I might obtain the Command of one of them, thro' your Interest in my Behalf, if you should think me deserving of so great a Favour, and you are not under any Pre-engagements. I am very well acquainted with the Navigation on the Coasts of both *New* and *Old Spain*, having been many Years in those Parts before I engaged with the *Hudson's Bay* Company, and was in several Letter of Marque Ships in *Queen Anne's War* at my first setting out as a Sailor.

I am personally known to Sir *Jacob Ackworth*, Sir *John Norris*, and all the elder Brothers of the *Trinity-House*; and I believe none of them would object to my Qualification, provided I should have any Friend of Weight that would think it proper to solicit in my Behalf; and tho' I have the Honour but of a very late Acquaintance with yourself, yet I hope you'll excuse the Freedom of this Address in an Affair which I judge to happen opportunely

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 per to undertake the Discovery. If you should  
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 mendation to any of the Lords of the Admiralty,  
 or others, on this Occasion, my future Behaviour  
 (I hope) will shew me not altogether unworthy of  
 so high a Trust, nor ungrateful to my Benefactor.

I was this Voyage at *Churchill* Factory, where  
 Mr. *Norton* is Governor. He was along with *Scroggs*  
 in 1722, and remembers very well that when they  
 came to an Anchor in the *Welcome*, near the La-  
 titude 65°. they had twelve Fathoms at High-water,  
 and but seven at Low-water ; and he seems confi-  
 dent, from a View that he took from a Promon-  
 tary ashore, that there must be a clear Passage ; the  
 Land is very high, and falls off to the Southward  
 of the West. This Year some of the Natives, who  
 came down to trade at *Churchill*, and had never  
 been before at any of our *English* Settlements, in-  
 formed him they frequently traded with *Europeans*  
 on the West Side of *America*, near the Latitude  
 of *Churchill* by their Account, which seems to con-  
 firm that the two Seas must unite. I remain

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*I answered this the 30th, and inclosed to him Let-  
 ters of Recommendation to Sir Robert Walpole, Lord  
 Conway, and Sir Charles Wager, of which I need  
 only give a Copy of what I wrote to Sir Charles  
 Wager, viz.*

Nº.

SIR,

I Find, by Captain *Middleton*, who is returned safe from *Churchill* in *Hudson's Bay*, that the Accounts he has had there this Year confirm there being a safe Passage at the *Welcome*.

*Here I recited the last Paragraph of the above Letter.*

Since these Facts confirm the former Accounts, and demonstrate a Passage, I am humbly of Opinion, that if we have a War with *Spain*, it would be highly advantageous to attempt it next Summer. If we discover it, and the War should continue the following Year, we might intercept their *Acapulco* Ships, and make many Prizes from *California* to *Panama*, before they would suspect our being upon their Coasts; and when they should know that we had found the Passage, our being capable of attacking them in the South Sea in so easy a Manner, would soon humble them, and make them value our Friendship.

I therefore beg leave to recommend Captain *Middleton* to you, as a Person capable, from his Knowledge of Sea-Affairs, particularly in *Hudson's Bay*, of being of great Service to *Great-Britain*; and even if it should not be judged proper to attempt it this Season, hope you will think him worthy of a Command under his Majesty, that he may be ready to attempt it whenever it may be thought proper. I am told several Twenty-Gun Ships are now fitting, and I believe all the old Captains who can serve are employed; as he is an experienced Captain, and served in Ships of Force in *Queen Anne's War*, I hope you will think it doing the Nation

Nation Service to employ him, and have him ready in the King's Service for this Discovery; and two Sloops may be prepared, fitting for the Navigation to *Hudson's Streights*, under his Direction, Time enough before next Season. His Character you may have from Sir *John Norris*, and Sir *Jacob Ackworth*, who personally know him.

I hope, Sir, you will pardon the Earnestness of my Solicitation in his Favour; but as you know I have the Discovery much at Heart, you will the more easily forgive me. I have wrote to Sir *Robert Walpole* upon the same Subject, and if other more important Affairs don't take up his Thoughts, he may probably speak to you upon this Subject.

I wish you Happiness and Success in all your Undertakings, and am, with the most sincere Respect, Sir, &c.

*To these I had the following Answer from Captain Middleton:*

N<sup>o</sup>. XVIII.

SIR,

*London, Novem. 29, 1739.*

I Received the Favour of your obliging Letter of the 30th of *October*, with the inclosed to Sir *R. Walpole*, Sir *Charles Wager*, and Lord *Conway*. I did myself the Honour to wait of these Gentlemen immediately, and was received with great Civility and Respect by Sir *C. Wager*, not finding any Opportunity to be introduced to Sir *Robert*, by my Lord *Conway's* happening to be out of Town, for several Days after the Receipt of your Letter. Sir *Charles* assured me that he was very desirous of having the Discovery undertaken, and would do all that was in his Power to promote it. Accordingly he ordered me to wait upon him a second Time in an Evening with a Chart of *Hudson's Bay*;

*Bay*; which I did last *Monday* Night, when we had a good deal of Discourse relating to the Method that might be proper to be pursued, in case it should be put in Practice next Spring; but he told me he had not then got your Manuscript from my Lord *Conway*; who being in Town, I waited of him, and he told me it was not proper for him at that Time to introduce me to Sir *Robert*, but he would give me Notice when I should attend him, and took Directions how to send to me As Sir *Charles* has given me Liberty to wait of him as often as I please, I make no doubt but he will discourse Sir *Robert* on the Affair as soon as he can conveniently; for at this Juncture Sir *Robert* is so extremely full of Business, that I despair of the Honour of waiting of him personally: However, I shall have the Pleasure to acquaint you from time to time what Progress is made in it, from the free Access I have to Sir *Charles*, who will not (I believe) let any Opportunity slip that may seem to favour the Design. In the Interim I remain, Sir,

*Your most obliged,*

*And most humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*This I did not immediately answer, but had from him the following Letter:*

N<sup>o</sup>. XIX.

SIR,

*London, Jan. 8, 1739.*

SINCE my last I have not been honoured with any from you, neither have I as yet the Pleasure to inform you of any great Progress made towards the Execution of our Project: However I constantly wait on Sir *Charles* once a Fortnight, or oftner, who receives me with great Civility and Respect.

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Respect. I gave him lately a Copy of the inclosed Paper, which is the Substance of one I delivered to the Company last Winter. Sir Charles seem'd to be pleas'd in perusing it, and said he had not yet got your Papers from my Lord Conway. I told him I had waited upon my Lord a great many Times, but had not found a proper Opportunity of being introduced to him: However, Sir Charles was so good as to say, that I might spare myself that Trouble, for it lay more immediately in his Way to forward the Affair; and I hope he will not let slip any proper Occasion of doing it. I shall not fail, for my own Part, to put him in Mind of it pretty frequently, as he has been pleas'd to give me leave to attend him as often as I think convenient. From time to time I shall do myself the Honour to acquaint you what Proceedings are made in the Affair. I wish you the Return of many happy Years; and am, with the greatest Regard, Sir,

*Your most obliged humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*Here below is the Paper he inclosed me about Scroggs's Discovery:*

N<sup>o</sup>. XX.

*An Account of Sir Thomas Row's Welcome, or Ut  
Ultra, extracted from the Journal of John Scroggs,  
in a Voyage he made from Churchill to the said  
Welcome, Anno 1722.*

**J**UNE 22d, 1722, sail'd from *Churchill* in 59° North, and Longitude from the Meridian of *London*, 95° West in the Latitude 62°. He traded with the *Indians* for Whalebone and Sea-horse Teeth. *Monday, July 9th* in the Evening, he anchored in twelve Fathoms. The Weather for several

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veral Days before had been hazy and thick, and he drove into this Depth. When it cleared up he found himself about nine or ten Miles from the North Side of the *Welcome*, in Lat. by Account  $64^{\circ} 33'$  N. He saw several Islands bearing from the S. W. by W. to the S. W. by S. and a Head-land at the same Time, which bore E. N. E. about 3 Leagues distant. This he named *Whalebone Point*, after the Name of his Sloop.

*July 10*, at seven in the Morning, he sent his six-oar'd Boat on Shore, with seven Hands and two Northern *Indians*; Mr. *Norton*, who is now a Governor at *Churchill*, was then Pateroon of the Boat, and spoke the Northern *Indian* Tongue. The two *Indians* had been entertained at the Factory all the foregoing Winter, upon the Account of this Discovery. They gave us Intimation of a rich Copper Mine, that lay near the Surface of the Earth, and said they could direct the Sloop or Ship to lie by it, where she might load very soon. We had several Pieces of Copper brought down to *Churchill*, which made it evident there is a Mine somewhere in that Country. These *Indians* sketch'd out the Land with Charcoal upon a Skin of Parchment, before they left the Factory; and as far as the Sloop went, they found it agree very well.

*Scroggs* says he saw both Sides of the *Welcome*, from the South back to the West, being up in the very Cod of the *Welcome*, as he terms it. The Land is as high as in *Hudson's Streights*, as he and his Men all agreed, and that Land we can see in clear Weather very well 15 or 20 Leagues. Where he continued at Anchor, he mentions it was very good Soundings. He always continued the Variation the same as at *Churchill*; for he knew not how to observe it. Then it was  $26^{\circ}$  W. and is now but  $20^{\circ}$  West at *Churchill*, tho' we find in the same Latitude 50 or 60 Leagues to the Eastward almost  $50^{\circ}$ .

Variation

Variation westerly, which makes the *Welcome* above two Points nearer the Meridian.

*Tuesday, July 10,* he continued at Anchor in the same Place; and the Boat returned on Board at five o'Clock in the Afternoon. He says they saw several black and white Whales here. At four the next Morning went on Shore again with the aforesaid *Indians*, and came back about five in the Evening. They found none of the Natives, but Plenty of Deer, wild Geese, Ducks, &c. Some of the Deer they killed. At 10 in the Forenoon calm, he says it ebbs five Fathoms where he lay at Anchor, for they anchored in twelve Fathom at High-water, as Mr. *Norton* this Year also confirmed to me, and they found but seven Fathom at Low-water. At Noon he and his Mate observed the Latitude to be  $64^{\circ} 56'$  N. Here he named the southernmost Island that bore S. W. by S. *Cape Fullerton*, after one of our Directors.

*Wednesday, July 11,* continued in the same Place at Anchor. He observed the Latitude again, and found it as before  $64^{\circ} 56'$  N. by a good Observation. His Mate, he tells us, agreed with him. He sent the Boat up to the Cod of the Bay, as he terms it, to sound, and the two Northern *Indians* went in her. One of them, he says, had a great Desire to go Home, which he told them was but three or four Days Journey from thence, but they detained him with fair Words and Promises.

*Thursday, 12th of July,* at four in the Afternoon, the Boat returned from the Shore. He gives us no Account of the Soundings, tho' they went out for that Purpose; but he asserts there was a Bar cross the *Welcome*, and that they could go no farther. All the Men agreed, when they returned, that they were at least ten Leagues from what he would have to be a Bar. At five in the Afternoon he weighed from that Place, where he had laid at Anchor ever

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nd is now but  $20^{\circ}$ .  
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astward almost  $50^{\circ}$ .

Variation

since the 9th Instant, and steered out S. E. by Com-  
pafs for two Miles, and then S. W. by ditto about  
four or five Miles more. Here he sounded in 45  
Fathom, and continued failing to the South-west  
Quarter.

July 13th, observed the Latitude at Noon to be  
 $64^{\circ}. 39'$ , and had 40 or 50 Fathom Water. The  
next Day 14th, returning Home, he found the La-  
titude by Observation to be  $64^{\circ}. 20'$ . and the Sound-  
ings 60 to 70 Fathoms. These Sounding he called  
the Mid-channel. In Lat.  $64^{\circ}. 13'$ . by Observation  
at Noon, on the South or rather East Side of the  
*Welcome*, the Flood came on so strong, and hove  
them so near the said South or East Shore, that he  
was obliged to come to an Anchor in ten Fathom.  
He does not say from whence the Flood came, nor  
does he ever give his Opinion of it during his  
whole Voyage in his Journal; but being set on the  
East Side, it must come from the Northward, ac-  
cording to the Course of the *Welcome*.

July the 15th, he crossed the *Welcome* in seventy  
fathoms, and observed the Latitude to be  $64^{\circ}. 15'$ .  
He makes the *Welcome* to be 15 or 20 Leagues  
broad in this Lat. from Side to Side, by computing  
the Distance from his Log-book. He saw many  
Whales in Lat.  $64^{\circ}. 8'$ .

Governor *Kelley*, in his Journal 1720, takes No-  
tice, that in Lat.  $63^{\circ}$ . on the West Side of the  
*Welcome*, the Tide comes strong from the N. E.  
which is near the Course of the *Welcome*. He calls  
it a foking Tide, and says it flows neap and Spring  
Tides from 12 to 17 Feet.

Last Winter the *Hudson's Bay* Company sent me  
the Journals of *Scroggs* and his Mate to examine,  
in order to have my Opinion of the Passage. I gave  
them an Account much the same as the foregoing,  
and incurred the Displeasure of some of those Gen-  
tlemen,

tlemen, for declaring my Opinion so freely for a Passage. 'Tis what they are not desirous of discovering, lest any should interfere with their Trade. I offered to undertake it for them, but they cared not to come into the Proposal. I was at *Churchill* when *Scroggs* went out, and wintered there at the same Time with him, being then Mate to one of the Company's Ships. It was propos'd that I should go with *Scroggs* on the Discovery to draw the Land and make Observations; but when the Time for undertaking the Voyage came on, *Scroggs* would not suffer me to go with him, for what Reason I know not. The Governor at *Churchill* was a good-natured easy Man, and would not use his Authority to oblige him to carry me against his Will. When they returned, which was in a Months Time or thereabouts, I examined the Officers and Men, several of them having been my Scholars in the Winter to learn Navigation. They told me they saw nothing, at those Times they were on Shore, to hinder their going farther; for when they were eight or ten Miles from the Point he nam'd *Whale Point*, which bore E. N. E. from them, they saw an open Sea, and the Land trench'd away to the Southward of the West. This they said to *Scroggs's* Face, as soon as they were got on board our Ship at *Churchill*, tho' while they were under his Command they dissembled it, and said what he pleas'd to have them. From this, and all other Accounts, it appears there must be a Passage for the Tides from the great Ocean.

*This was the Copy he inclosed to me, mentioned in his Letter. In that Paper he gave the Company, which he says was much to the same Purpose, he was oblig'd to conceal great Part of his Opinion, for fear of dis-obliging them; but one Point he affirms in it, which is very material, that is, the Time of High-water*

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 me of those Gen-  
 tlemen,

*in Whale Cove. He says in it: Captain Kelsey, and likewise the Sloops that went last Year, found the Tides near the same Latitude (he was talking of the Tides at Cary's Swan's Nett) about thirty or forty Leagues to the Westward in Whale Cove, to flow but Ten Feet in common Tides, and a W. S.W. Moon makes a full Sea.*

*His next, dated London, January 22, 1739.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXI.

SIR,

**A**S the Season is so far advanced, I thought proper to write a few Lines to Sir *Charles Wager*, and delivered them into his own Hand, not having an Opportunity of discoursing him in private upon the Subject of the Discovery. I send you a Copy of my Letter inclosed. He read it while I was present, and told me that for his own Part, he was entirely for undertaking it this Spring; but he was afraid he should not be able to put it in Execution, and that the Thoughts of it must be deferr'd till next Year. As a second Letter from yourself to Sir *Charles* or Sir *Robert Walpole* may be a Means to encourage their executing it this Season, I shall leave it to your Judgment to make such farther Application about it as you think convenient; because it will be necessary for me to engage again with the Company in a very short Time, unless Sir *Charles* should be pleased to give some Encouragement to the other Part of my Proposal, when he has considered it. I am, with the greatest Respect, Sir,

*Your most obedient,*

*And most humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*The Copy of his Letter to Sir Charles Wager :*

N<sup>o</sup>.

Honoured Sir,

January 7, 1739.

AS the *Hudson's Bay* Company have just given us Orders to get our Ships ready for sailing a Month sooner than usual, I beg Leave to acquaint you therewith, and with great Submission to offer a few Thoughts relating to the Expedition Mr. *Dobbs* propos'd, that in case you should judge it not expedient to undertake it this Year in such a manner as to go through the Discovery, by wintering there; yet some Preparation may be made towards it, and at the same Time an Advantage be gain'd of the *Spaniards*, when they least expect it.

The *Biscayers* every Year send ten or twelve Ships to fish for Whales behind *Resolution*, and these might be taken as Prizes with great Ease, together with the Fish they catch, by a Twenty-gun Ship, carrying a few Men more than ordinary to be spared for manning such Vessels as we might have the good Fortune to take in those Parts, together with a Tender about ninety Tuns. I propose a Ship of twenty or thirty Guns, as the fittest in all Respects, because they draw but little Water, and besides have a Number of Oars, which will be extremely useful in getting thro' the Ice, and coming up with the *Spaniards*. We should also have Time enough to sail up the *Welcome* with the Ship and Tender, in order to make more certain Observations of the Course and Strength of the Tides, the Bearings of the Coast, &c. than have been yet transmitted us, which would mightily facilitate the Discovery, whenever it should hereafter be put in Execution. Another great Use of the Tender would be in case of any bad Accident in the Ice, which is sometimes unavoidable, notwithstanding the greatest Care.

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1739.

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servant,  
t. Middleton.

s Wager :  
N<sup>o</sup>.

In case you should be pleased to approve this Proposition, and entrust me with the Command of such a Vessel this Spring for the Purpose above-mentioned, I do assure you that I will discharge my Duty with such Care, Fidelity, and Resolution, as I hope will be for the Service and Satisfaction of the Public, as well as to give you no Cause to repent assisting me with your Recommendation and Encouragement.

If this should find your Approbation, I will set down such farther Memorandums as may be proper relating to this Undertaking, and the Preparation necessary for it.

I hope, Sir, you will excuse the Freedom of this Address; and in case what I have offered be improper at this Juncture, you'll be pleased to let me know it, because the Time is at hand that I must engage again with the Company, or relinquish their Service. I am, with the greatest Regard, honour'd Sir,

*Your most obliged,*

*And most obedient humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*My Letter to Sir C. Wager, Jan. 23, 1739-40.*

N°. XXIII.

SIR,

**I**T is with great Pleasure I hear from Captain *Middleton*, that he has been to wait upon you, and has laid all the latest Accounts and Journals relating to the N. W. Passage before you, which, I am persuaded you will agree with me, almost amount to a Demonstration of there being an easy Passage free from Ice, since the *Welcome* is the most northerly Part of the Passage.

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Since this Discovery must be of great Advantage either in Peace or War, I'm persuaded you'll give your Assistance in having it made this Season, for by delaying it, I'm afraid lest *France* should get the Scent, and anticipate our Discovery. I have wrote by this Post to Sir *R. Walpole* upon it, and believe he will mention it to you, having referred to you in my Letter. Lord *Conway* has my Manuscript, which you may send to him for, if it be necessary. I depend upon your Friendship in pushing on this Attempt, which I have much at Heart. Since you agree with me it will be of great Advantage to the Public, and if any Thing can be done this next Summer, this is the proper Time to prepare for it. I wish you Happiness in all you are concern'd in public and private, and am, with the greatest Respect, &c.

*The Captain's next Letter :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXIV.

SIR,

*London, Febr. 14, 1739.*

SINCE my last I am favoured with yours of the 23d of *January*, and am highly obliged to you for writing a second Time to Sir *R. Walpole* and Sir *Charles Wager*. I have waited upon both these Gentlemen and Lord *Conway* several Times; and when I had not an Opportunity of seeing them I was willing to put them in Mind by Letters, the Copies whereof are underwritten. Yesterday I had the Honour to speak to Sir *Robert Walpole* for the first Time at his Levee; and he answered me with some Earnestness, repeating it twice or thrice, that the Affair was not his Business, and that I must apply myself to Sir *Charles Wager*. I waited of Sir *Charles* immediately after, to whom I have generally a free Access, and told him what Sir *Robert* said.

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He shook his Head, and said the Time for it was coming on apace, and that he would get it done if he possibly could; for my own Part, I shall continue to solicit Sir Charles Wager about it a little while longer, and then must give it up for this Season, if nothing be done to put it in Execution very soon. I fear Sir R. Walpole has now so much Business on his Hand, that he can't spare Time to think about it; and therefore shifted it off to Sir C. Wager, who yet I believe will do nothing in it without his Consent and Advice. I remain, with the greatest Respect, Sir,

*Your most obliged,*

*And most humble Servant,*

Christo. Middleton.

*This I answered, and had the following Letter from him :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXV.

SIR,

*London, March 29, 1740.*

I Was duly favoured with your obliging Letters together with a Copy of Sir C. Wager's, for which I return you many Thanks. I have had the Honour to discourse with Sir Charles several Times, and he has got the Copy of your Papers at Length, but he tells me 'tis impossible to proceed in the Undertaking this Season. I am now in a very great Hurry in preparing our Vessel for a Voyage to Hudson's Bay, the Company having ordered me this Year to go to Albany and Moose River. At my Return (please God) I hope to have the Honour to see you in London, being fully of Opinion that your Presence here would much facilitate the Affair, and your Interest procure the Undertaking to be set on Foot next Year. In the mean Time I wish you all

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Health and Happiness, and am, with the greatest  
Regard and Esteem, Sir,

*Your most obliged,*

*And obedient humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*His next Letter was dated London, May 1, 1740.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXVI.

SIR,

**A**S we shall depart in a few Days from hence on  
our Voyage to *Hudson's Bay*, I thought it pro-  
per to assure you, that I continue my Intentions of  
promoting the Discovery, and making such Obser-  
vations as may be useful towards it, to the utmost  
of my Power. At my Return (which I fear will  
not be till *November*, as we must go and come by  
the *Orkneys*, and must there wait for Orders) I hope  
to have the Happiness to see you in *London*, and in  
the mean Time, wish you Health and Prosperity,  
being with the utmost Sincerity and Respect, Sir,

*Your most obliged,*

*And most humble Servant,*

Christo. Middleton.

*P. S.* Since I wrote the few Lines above, I had  
the Honour to see Sir *Charles Wager*, and he tells me  
he perused your Manuscript carefully, and spoke in  
Behalf of the Expedition to the King; and his  
Majesty seemed to approve it very well, and said  
the Expence was such a Trifle, that it should not  
be obstructed on that Account; so that Sir *Charles*  
is of Opinion that it will be put in Execution next  
Year without much Difficulty, especially if you  
should be in *London* to make suitable and timely Ap-  
plication in that Business.

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Time I wish you all  
Health

*Upon his Return he sent me the following Letter :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXVII.

SIR,

*London, Novem. 7, 1740.*

**I** Take the first Opportunity of acquainting you with my Arrival here, after a long and dangerous Voyage. *Saturday* Night last we had a most terrible Storm in *Yarmouth Road*, where I had the Misfortune to lose my Malls, and a great many Colliers and other Ships were entirely lost. As I was ordered to the Southermost Settlements, and detained a great many Weeks in the Ice in my outward-bound Passage, I have no particular Observations to communicate. I am in Hopes to have the Honour to see you in *London* this Winter; and then, if it should appear to be a proper Season for undertaking the Expedition, I shall be ready to concur in any Measures that may be needful; and in the mean Time beg leave to assure you, that I am most sincerely, Sir,

*Your most obliged,*

*And most obedient humble Servant,*

Christo. Middleton.

*This I answered, and had the following Reply :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXVIII.

SIR,

**I** Am favoured with yours of the 29th of *November*, and am obliged to you for the Concern you express on Account of the Danger of the Voyage. I am likewise to acknowledge the Receipt of yours, which came in *May*, after my Departure.

We had a favourable Passage through the Straits of about four or five Days, and there never could have

have been a finer Season for attempting the Discovery, because we met there with very little Ice, and all up to the Northward in the Bay was quite open and free in the Beginning of July; but it happened otherwise to the Southward, for the Snow that had fallen and was congealed, with northerly Winds setting it to the Southward, increased it there, and retarded our Passage down the Bay.

As you are soon to be in London, and that I hope for the Pleasure to see you, I shall now only add that I am with the greatest Sincerity and Respect,  
Sir,

London, October 18, 1740.

Your most obedient,  
And very humble Servant,

Christo. Middleton.

P. S. This Afternoon I waited of Sir C. Wager, and acquainted him with your Purpose of being in London next Month, to solicit the Affair. He said you would come in a very proper Time, and made no Doubt it might be accomplished.

*This finishes our Correspondence until he went the Voyage, I soon after going to London, and no material Letters passing between us when I was there, only the following one, which shows the good Opinion he had of Mr. Thompson the Surgeon's Capacity; tho' now he would stigmatize him, upon Account of his discovering his Frauds and Misconduct upon the Voyage.*

Nº. XXIX.

SIR,

THE Bearer Edward Thompson has served his Time seven Years to a Surgeon, and four or five Years a Journeyman in London, has been a Mate two Years in the Navy, and was the last three Years Surgeon at Moose River in the Company's

pany's Service. He pass'd at *Surgeon's Hall*, when he came Home with me last Winter, for a third Rate Mate. I having promised to carry him Surgeon along with me, for this Twelvenmonth patt, prevented his going Governor, which they have several Times offer'd him since my leaving the Company's Service. He refus'd it all along, depending on the Certainty of going with me. The Company, we believe, have us'd Means to hinder the Surgeons of the Hall from giving him a Qualification. They examin'd him last Week; he answer'd all their Questions, but had no Certificate to the Navy-Office. The Commissioners of the Navy I have apply'd to for a Warrant for him, but they say they can't do it without the Barber Surgeons. Mr. *Gasbree* wrote down in his Behalf, but told me Yesterday, that he could not go without the Qualification from the Hall. Sir *Charles* said, in Mr. *Gasbree's* hearing, he believ'd it was not material his pass'ing there.

Sir, I will assure you that, as I am not a Stranger to Surgery or Medicines, I can venture to recommend him to be a Person as well qualified for Surgeon as the major Part of those in the Navy; he also may be of great Service to us in case we should winter, for he will be the only Person on Board who knows any Thing of the *Indian Tongue*, likewise knowing the Distempers that that Country is subject to; and as we have broke through all the Rules (as they say) in the Navy, we must stretch one Point here, and I must insist upon his going if Sir *Charles* can't do it, but I believe he will. We must apply to Sir *R. Walpole*, for the Company shall not baulk us in this or any other Thing. I am,  
Sir,

*London-Street,  
Ratcliff-Cross,  
April 23, 1741.*

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*Ther*

There being a material Difference betwixt the Folio Log-Book in the Furnace and the Pocket Log-Book, which the Captain has publish'd, I shall here give an Extract from the Log-Book from Sunday, Aug. 8, at four in the Morning, until Friday the 13th, when they came to Marble Island; but I begin Sunday the 8th from twelve the Night before, and he begins it only from Noon on Sunday; so I desire the Reader, with this previous Notice, to compare both.

## N°. XXX.

Hours.	DAILY OCCURRENCES.	Aug. 8.
4	At 4 in the Morning, a small Breeze and hazy, sailing among Ice: Sounded 55 Fathoms. Cape Hope bore NNE distant 5 Leagues.	
6	At half an Hour after 5 we Tack'd, and found by our Soundings from 55 to 40 Fathoms. Much Ice to the Eastward.	
8	[Our Course ENE]. Tack'd, Fir'd a Gun, or Signal, for the Tender, Cape Hope N by W half W. distant 6 Leagues: Low Beach bore SW 4 or 5 Leagues distant: The Middle Opening bore SE by E. distant 4 Leagues.	
10	[Course SSW.] A fresh Gale. At half an Hour past 8 handed both Top-gallant-fails: Sounded and found from 58 to 46 Fathoms. Standing in for an Opening.	
12	[Course SW half W]. At 10 the Capt. went on Shore, with the six-oar'd Boat, to see if there was any such thing as to go in with the Ship, and to try the Ebbing and Flowing of the Tide. At half an Hour past 11. lay too for the Boat; one Reef in each Topfail. At 12 Cape Hope bore N by E half E 7 or 8 Leagues. The Beach W by S 4 or 5 Leagues. The Largest Opening bore East 2 Leagues.	
		Lying

These

Hours. DAILY OCCURRENCES. Aug. 9.

- 2 Lying to for the Boat, up S of S W.
- 4 [Course S S W. E N E.] At 2 made sail, and stood in Shore. Sounded 35, 30, 30, 30, 27 Fathoms. At 3 tack'd. At 4 Cape *Hope* bore N half E 8 Leagues, *Low Beach* S W half W. 7 or 8 Miles, the Middle Opening E. S E. 3 Leagues. Sounded 40 Fathoms.
- 6 A fresh Breeze still standing in for the Boat. Sounded 60 Fathoms.
- 8 Standing along Shore. At half past 6 lay to for the Boat. At 8 Cape *Hope* bore N. the Opening S W by W. 2 Leagues, *Low Beach* W S W 4 or 5 Leagues. Sounded 45 Fath.
- 10 A small Breeze. Lying to for the Boat till half an Hour after 9. At half past 10 the Captain returned, and brought an Account there was no proceeding farther Northward for much Ice. He saw all firm for 20 Leagues, and no Prospect of breaking up this Season. At half past 12 lay to.

MONDAY Aug. 9th.

- 2 At 2 bore away. At 3 sounded 35 Fathoms. Distant from the *Low Beach* 1 Mile.
- 4 Cape *Hope* N E by N 9 Leagues, E Point of *Low Beach* S E by E about 3 Leagues.
- 6 A fresh Gale and hazy. Sailing along the S. Shore from the Point to a-breast of us is E by N and W by S.
- 8 Ditto. Sailing 3 Leagues off the S Shore. As far as we can see to the W. it lieth W S W.
- 10 At half past 9 lay to for the Tender. Much Ice on the W Shore, near a third over.
- 12 Up S by W. off S W. At 12 the nearest Distance from the W Shore 8 or 9 Leag.  
the



DAILY OCCURRENCES. Aug. 10.

the South Shore S W by S. distant 3 or 4 Leagues. Sounding 33 Fathoms.

Hour.

- 2 At half an Hour past 12 bore away. Made fail. At 2 the Mouth of *Wager* River N W three qrs. N. distant 8 or 9 Leagues.
- 4 Fresh Gales. Set all the small Sails. At 4 Cape *Dobbs* bore N W three qrs. W. distant 6 Leagues.
- 6 It bore N half E, distant 9 or 10 Leagues.
- 8 Nothing Entered.

10 Fine clear Weather. Sounded 58 Fathoms.

12 Ditto Weather. Sounded 60, 65 Fathoms.

TUESDAY, Aug. 10.

2 A fresh Gale and hazy. Course W by S. Sounded 65, 50 Fathoms.

4 Ditto Weather. Sounded 43 to 25 Fathom. Steer'd south off the Shore to deepen Water. Sounded 34 Fathoms. Then the southermost Land on N W Side bore N W. dist. 5 Leagues.

6 At 4 lay to for moderate Weather, it being hazy and a fresh Gale. Try'd the Tide slack Water. Sounded 86 Fathoms.

8 Clear Weather. Sounded 70 Fathom, small brown Stones.

10 Ditto Weather. Sounded 68 Fathoms. Wind NE by E.

12 Ditto Weather. Latit. observed 64°. 10'. Sounded 70 to 68 Fathoms. Land in sight on south Side lies E by S. to S.

S

Lying

Hours.

DAILY OCCURRENCES. Aug. 11.

- 2 Lying too S E off to S S E. Sounded 35, 36 Fathoms. Wore the Ship, and lay with her Head to Northward.
- 4 Sounded 45 to 43. The extreme Part of the South Shore bears south and S E by E. Nearest Distance S E by S 9 or 10 Leagues.
- 6 A Fresh Gale and hazy. Sounded 60 to 70 Fathoms.
- 8 At 7 moderate Weather. Made sail and stood to the Northward. At 8 saw the Land on both Sides of the *Welcome*. The Extreme in sight on N Side N half E, Distance 12 or 13 Leagues. Sounded 60 Fathoms.
- 10 Moderate Weather. Standing over to the N. Shore, sounded 47, 46, 45 Fathoms.
- 12 Lay to with her Head to the Northward. Sounded 45, 43 Fathoms.

## WEDNESDAY, Aug. 11.

- 2 Moderate and clear. Sounded 47 to 55 Fathoms. Lay to under a Fore-sail.
- 4 Wore Ship. Sounded 45 to 35 Fathoms. Land in sight on North Shore from N E to N N W. nearest Dist. N 5 or 6 Leagues.
- 6 Ditto Weather. Sounded 42 Fathoms. At 5 bore away, and stood as per Log (W.) Sounded 45 Fathoms.
- 8 Fresh Gales and hazy. Sounded 40, 39, 36, 37 Fathoms. Course N W. The Land on N Side the Westernmost Part in Sight bore N half E. the Easternmost E by N.
- 10 Hauling off and on. Sounded 29, 24, 22, 26, 25, 26, 29, 34, 34, 35 Fathoms, Rocks and stony Ground.
- 12 Moderate Weather. Sounded 35, 35, 34, 34, 25. Lower'd the Boat at 11. Out first Reef of Top-sail. Course

Aug. 11.  
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Hours.	DAILY OCCURRENCES.	Aug. 12.
2	Lat. 63°. 56'. [Course W S W.] Moderate and hazy. Sounded 30, 34, 36 Fathoms.	
4	Ditto Weather. [Course W by S.] Sounded 39, 34 Fathoms. At 3 fet Fore-fail and Jib.	
6	[Course W S W.] Saw the Land all along the N Shore, Distance from it 7 or 8 Leagues. Sounded 34, 38 Fathoms. At 6 flood more out to deepen the Water.	
8	[Course S W.] A fresh Gale. Sounded 29, 35, 40 Fathoms. At 8 haul'd up Fore-fail, and took both Reefs in each Top-fail, and lay to with Fore-top-fail.	
10	Drive S by W. Sounded 52 Fathoms. Fresh Breeze and clear.	
12	Ditto Weather. Sounded 42, 45 Fathoms.	
THURSDAY, Aug. 12.		
2	Ditto Weather. Sounded 60, 65 Fathoms.	
4	Drive South. Ditto Weather. Sounded 65, 65 Fathoms. Bore away, standing in for the Land on North Side.	
6	At 4 made fail, and stood in for the Land N N W. At 6 the Extremes in Sight at <i>Brook Cobham</i> bears from N by W. to N W by W. the high Land on it N W by N. distant 8 or 9 Leagues.	
8	[Course N by W.] At 7 fet the Fore-fail. At 8 <i>Brook Cobham</i> bore from N. to N W by W. The high Land upon ditto N W half N. Distance 6 or 7 Leagues. Sounded 60 to 43 Fathoms.	
10	[Course N N W.] Sounded from 49 to $\frac{1}{4}$ less 9 Fathoms 2 Leagues off Shore. Saw several black Whales of the right Kind.	
	S 2	Latit.

Hours.

DAILY OCCURRENCES. Aug. 13.

1 2 Latit. 63°. 14'. Hauling off into deeper Water, At 12 *Brook Cobham* the Extreme from N W by W to N N W 3 Leagues off Shore. 'Tis a Headland and not an Island, as *Fox* mentions. Another Head-land at the same Time bears S W by S. Distance 8 or 9 Leagues. Sounded 20 Fathoms.

## FRIDAY, Aug, 13.

2 [Course S W by W.] Moderate Weather and clear. Sounded 39, 30, 31, 23, 25, 33, 27, Fathoms.

4 Course ditto. Ditto Weather. Sounded 23, 20, 32, 38, 40, 40, 40, 45 Fathom. At four the South Part of the Island bore W N W Distance 4 Leagues.

6 Ditto Weather. Sounded 38, 24, 25 Fathoms.

8 Sounded 25, 35 Fathoms. Lay to. Try'd the Tide. It came from the East 3 Knots.

1 0

1 2 Lying to off *Marble Island*.

*I shall not give any Papers in this Appendix which Captain Middleton has given true Accounts of in his, but only such as he has not given, or where he has left out any material Article or Paragraph.*

*The first he has omitted is the Letter the Company gave to their Governor and Council at Churchill, when the Admiralty wrote to them to give him the Use of their Harbours, and to assist them with any Thing they should want to promote the Discovery, viz.*

N°. XXXI.

*Mr. James Isham and Council at Prince of Wales Fort, Churchill River.*

*Hudson's Bay House, London, May 31, 1741.  
Gentlemen,*

**N**otwithstanding our Orders to you, if Captain Middleton (who is sent abroad in the Government's Service to find out a Passage N.W.) should by inevitable Necessity be brought into real Distress and Danger of his Life or Loss of his Ship, and by that Means forced to your Factory, in such case you are then to give him the best Assistance and Relief you can. We remain

*Your loving Friends,*

*Bibye Lake, Governor.  
William Elderton.  
J. Winter.  
Atwell Lake.  
John Anthony Merle.  
John Merry.*

**W**E do certify, that the above is a true Copy of the Original Letter directed as above for Mr. James Isham and Council at Prince of Wales Fort, Churchill River, and subscribed by Bibye Lake, Governor, William Elderton, J. Winter, Atwell Lake, John

*I sha!!*

*John Anthony Merle, and John Merry; as Witnesses  
our Hands, London, May 27, 1741.*

*Alexander Orr.*

*Robert Allan.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXXII.

*Furnace at Cairstown in Pomona, one of the Isles  
of Orkney, June 24, 1741.*

*Honourable Sir,*

I Sent you Advice of my sailing from the *Nore*, since which Time I have met with many Calms and contrary Winds, that I have been very much retarded in my Voyage. I endeavoured to call at *Leith* for his Majesty's Ship the *Dolphin*, to accompany us to the Isles of *Orkney*, and worked up as far as *Castle Weemis* in *Edinburgh Firth*; but the Wind blowing hard at W. S. W. and the *Discovery* falling so much to Leeward, that I was afraid of losing her, the Season being but too far advanced, and a great Probability of beating to Windward a long Time before we could reach *Leith*, and a Hazard of being Wind-bound there, I consulted my Officers, who unanimously agreed it would be the most proper Method to bear away for the Isles of *Orkney*, where I safely arrived this Day, and shall stay no longer than watering the Ships to proceed when a Wind presents; but the *Discovery* sails so heavily, that it will be as much as we can do to get to *Churchill* this Year, and I wish we may. The two Ships in the Company's Service sailed from hence the 22<sup>d</sup> of last Month, and as it is probable they have had fair Winds ever since, they must now be in *Hudson's Bay*. I shall do what lies in my Power for the Service I am ordered upon, and am, with great Respect, honourable Sir,

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

Christ. Middleton.

*There*

*There being nothing material in Mr. Lanrick's Letter of the first of November, 1742, except what I have mentioned in these Remarks already, it being a kind of Journal, I need not give it here.*

*The Captain's Letters to me of November 17, from Orkney, and January 18, from London, being exactly related in his printed Defence, I shall not give them here. But his Letter of the 5th of February, being altered in several Parts, and the last whole Paragraph being artfully omitted, it will be necessary for me to give the whole here, viz.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXXIII.

SIR,

I Received yours of the 22d of *January*, and saw the Letter you inclosed in Mr. *Smith's* to the Lord ——— concerning opening the Trade to the Bay.

You say I have made a much greater Progress in the Discovery of a Passage, than I imagined when there, and that from the Light you have got from my Journal, you can almost prove that I was in the Passage, and that *Wager River* is properly *Wager Streight*, and not a fresh Water River; and that the Way I entered it was one, tho' not the greatest and easiest Way into the Streight.

You also observe, that if there is a Communication between the Bay and the Western *American* Ocean, or Passage thro' Islands or broken Lands, as in the *Magellanic Streight*, the Tide will continue to rise until we get half Way through, and then meet the Tide of the other Ocean. This I thought of when there, made several Trials, and ordered my Officers to do the same, not only near *Deer Sound*, but in their Progress up the River as far as they went, and to take Notice of the Flux of the Tides, their Direction and Height, as you'll find

There

find inclosed here. Now as by mine and their Observations, it flowed at *Savage Sound* fifteen Feet, and the same Day but ten Foot at *Deer Sound*, and fifteen Leagues above *Deer Sound*, on the W. Side, but six Feet. The Tides kept their regular Course as high up as I was myself, which was five Leagues above *Deer Sound*, about seven Hours Ebb and five Hours Flood, twenty Leagues up; whereas, if there had been a Tide from the Westward to have met this, it must have raised the Tide higher, the farther we went up, as it does in *Narborough's* Account of the beforementioned Streight; but the Flood would not have run above two Hours, as he found it there. All these Observations confirmed me, that it could not be a Streight, as you seem to think.

The Whales we saw in the River *Wager* certainly come in at the Mouth of that River, where the Ships entered at; for we saw several in the *Welcome*, and some off from *Cape Dobbs*, after we came out, and before we went in. The high Land and deep Water gave me great Hopes before I try'd the abovementioned Tides.

*Brook Cobham* was covered with Snow when we went out, but in our Return Home there was none upon it. The Snow on the Land in the River *Wager* was much wasted before we got out of it, especially upon the Tops of the Mountains; but in the Valleys it lay very thick, and froze so hard as to be able to bear Waggon and Horses.

As to any Passage or broken Lands between the River *Wager* and  $62^{\circ} 40'$ . I am certain that I searched that Coast very narrowly, and stood into every Bay all along so near, that the *Indians* I had on Board knew all the Coast, and would have had me to have set them on Shore at *Cape Fullerton*, for they knew their Way to *Churchill*, and had that



Way travelled several Times in the Summer, which they could not have done had it consisted of Islands or Rivers; for they have no Canoes, neither is there any Wood to raft them over as the *Indians* do, to the Southward.

The Copy of the Lieutenant and Master's Report I have here inclosed, and what is wanting in their Relation I shall mention here. The River, five Leagues above *Deer Sound*, is eight or ten Leagues broad; the Channel is seventy or eighty Fathoms deep in the Middle, and lieth near N.W. by the true Chart, as far as they went up, and met with as much Ice or more than we did below where the Ships lay. I went several Times up the River myself, but all was so choak'd with Ice, that I could but once get over to the West Shore; so that it is my Opinion, that this River cannot be above one Week or two at most clear of Ice in a Year, and many Years not clear at all.

There must be Land to the Westward, and a very great Tract of Land, from the Reasons I mentioned in the Observations of the Effects of Cold. Whilst the Wind blows from the Northwest Quarter the Air is continually frozen, by the Winds passing over Mountains perpetually covered with Snow. The Land from the Water-side ascends gradually up into the Country, and is very high, as I saw from off some very high Mountains above *Deer Sound*.

This is all I have Time to think upon at present, but I should be heartily glad you could dissolve the Company, for they have used me and all my Men who were with me very ill; and those who voluntarily entered with me at *Churchill*, they refuse to pay their Wages due; neither can I get any Money for my Servant, whom I formerly put in their Service. There are many other Things which

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have

have been very fatiguing to me, and no doubt will be tiresome to you, therefore beg leave you will conclude me to be, as I really am, with great Respect, Sir,

London, Feb.  
5, 1742.

Your most obedient,  
Humble Servant,  
Christ. Middleton.

*The Captain's Warrant and the Lieutenant's and Master's joint Report the Captain has published, but the Lieutenant's first Report he did not, which is as follows :*

N°. XXXIV.

**J**ULY the 29th, 1742, I was ordered with the Master to take the six-oar'd Boat, and to go up *Savage Sound* as high as *Deer Sound*, and try the Tides. I find that the Flood there comes from the *River Wager*, it flow'd there 10 Foot Water.

We then sail'd from *Deer Sound* for the High Bluff Land on the N. W. Side of the *River Wager*. The Course from the Islands off the North Side of *Deer Sound* is N. W. and N. W. by N. by Compass. We founded all the Way over, and had no Ground, with a Line of 68 Fathom, to the High Bluff Land. We then run up a Branch of the main River, and founded and found 50 Fathom one third over that Branch. There were several Islands in it. Sounded about a League off an Island on the North Side, and found 30 Fathom Water. In running between the Islands and the supposed Main, which was on the West Side of that Branch, the Tide or Freshes suddenly turned against us, the Boat altering the Land very much before. Sounded near some of the Islands, and had no Ground at 68 Fathoms. As we run up it we founded near a small Island, and had twenty-nine Fathoms. We steer'd W. N. W. between

between the Islands and the west Land by Compass, there being several Islands in the fair Way, and no Ground in the Middle of the Channel at 68 Fathom. We went about 15 Leagues above *Deer Sound*, and saw a Fresh or Run of Water coming against us; and the Wind being fair I was afraid to stay any longer, for fear of hindering the Ships from going to Sea. There is a great Probability of an Opening on the west Side by the coming in of the Whales, but I could not go higher up to try it for the abovemention'd Reason.

We went to the Top of a high mountainous Land, from whence we saw a great Run or Fall of Water between the west Land and the Islands. It was very narrow, seemingly not a Mile broad; and at the same Time saw a fair Channel or Streight to the Northwards of the Islands, with Land on both Sides as high as the Cape of *Good Hope*, running away to the westward with many Bluff Points and broken Lands. In coming down we saw several very large black Whales, playing about the Boat and in Shore.

John Rankin.

*The first of August, 1742.*

*The Minutes I set down from the Master, when he came to me, the Moment he left the Room.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXXV.

**R**OBERT WILSON, the Master of the *Furnace*, very candidly and openly owns, that he was drove out in the Boat with the Lieutenant by the Tide of Ebb, quite round Cape *Dobbs* to the Southward. That upon his Return, when he went up to *Deer Sound* and from thence to the Bluff on the West Side, he had an open Sea free from Ice, and no Soundings all the Way over at 68 Fathoms,

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but near an Island they had 30 Fathoms. That he saw a great many large true black Whales as great as any he had seen in *Greenland*; and that they never came in at the Salt Entrance of *Wager River*, otherwise they must have been seen by them some where below, but he never saw any in other Parts of the Bay or Streights, but near *Brook Cobham*, where he apprehends, from the great Tides there, that there is an Opening or Streight from the westward.

He says, that when he came to the West Bluff, thirty Leagues up *Wager River*, that the Mid-channel then lay W. S. W. the true Course; that he tasted the Water there, which was as salt as any he had found in those Seas; that the Fall about a League from them, or rapid Current, he would fain have gone to, but does not know whether it was fresh Water or not. But it was not in the main Channel, that he and another Man went much higher up the Mountains than the Lieutenant, and killed two Deer; that from thence he overlooked the Islands, which were betwixt them and the main Channel, and saw a large Streight 4 or 5 Leagues wide, free from Ice, which run directly S. W. with high mountainous Lands on both Sides, which he had a great Inclination to have gone to in the Boat, and mov'd it to the Lieutenant; but their Provisions being spent, and having already gone fifteen Leagues beyond their Warrant which limited them, he was unwilling to disobey his Orders by going farther. Upon which the Master said, to what Purpose did they go there, if it was not to make the Discovery. Upon their Return at *Brook Cobham*, the Captain sent the Master ashore to get Water, and said he would send him again; that he then observed that there had been very high Tides, of which he acquainted the Captain upon his Return, and desired to go ashore again to make  
Ob.

Observations; but the Captain, upon Pretence that he had staid too long on Shore before, told him he should not go on Shore again whilst he was in the Bay, and ordered others to go, so he could make no farther Observations there, from thence they bore away for *England*, 15th of *August*.

*Mr. Thompson and Wigate's Letter to me upon the Master's Refusal to reduce the above Account into Writing :*

Nº. XXXVI.

*Honoured Sir,                      Wednesday, April 20, 1743.*

WE have, according to our Promise, visited the late Master of the *Furnace*, whom we find to have been so much temporized with by the Discoverer, that he has absolutely refused to say any Thing relating to his private Knowledge of the Voyage he was ordered upon, by reason *he would not be the Ruin of any Man*, (these were his express Words) *for he would rather beg his Bread*. The Discoverer came to him in *Wapping* last Night, and fetch'd him away, and carry'd him to his Lodgings in the *Old Bailey* in a Coach. The Discoverer there remonstrated to him what he thought proper for his Purpose, and so altered the Master's Desires, that he declared he would see you no more; and we have some Apprehensions he may be sent out of the Way. We remember enough of his Words, which he spoke to us in Company on *Monday* last, to confront him with upon Oath, provided he does not declare the Truth upon Examination. We are heartily sorry we have said so much in Praise of an  
unsteady-

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unsteady-minded Man, and only beg you will excuse us, and conclude we are unalterably

*Your most obedient humble Servants,*

Edward Thompson.  
John Wigate.

*P. S.* We imagine the Lieutenant is under Document, therefore we beg leave to wait upon you Tomorrow Morning.

*The anonymous Letter sent to me from London, which gave me the first Hint of the Captain's Roguery.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXXVII.

SIR,

**T**HIS Script is only to open your Eyes, which have been sealed or closed with too much (we can't say Cunning) Artifice, so that they have not been able to discover our Discoverer's Pranks.

All Nature cries aloud there is a Passage, and we are sure there is one from *Hudson's Bay* to *Japan*. Send a Letter directed to Messrs. *Brook* and *Cobham*, who are Gentlemen that have been the Voyage, and cannot bear so glorious an Attempt should die under the Hands of mercenary Wretches, and they will give you such pungent Reasons as perhaps will awake all your Industry. They desire it may be kept secret so long as they shall think fit. They are willing to venture their Lives, their Fortunes, their All, in another Attempt; and they are no inconsiderable Persons, but such as have had it much at Heart ever since they saw the Rapidity of the Tides in the *Welcome*. The frozen Streights is all Chimera, and every Thing you have ever yet read  
or

or seen concerning that Part of our Voyage. We shall send you some unanswerable Queries.

Direct for us at the *Chapter Coffee House,*  
*St. Paul's Church-yard.*

January 2, 1742-3.

*This I answered upon receiving it, telling them if it were genuine, and they sent me over proper Queries, I would go strait over and assist them, and push it forward with all the Interest I could make. To which I had the following Answer :*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXXVIII.

SIR,

IT was with no little Pleasure we received your Letter, and you may depend upon our utmost Assistance towards the Discovery of the so-long-desir'd Passage; but must beg leave to acquaint you, it is with no mercenary Views we undertake this ungrateful Task, yet as we have engag'd so far as to send you a Letter, you may be assured that nothing shall deter us from doing public Justice, and only beg the Favour you would suffer us to conceal our Names a little longer. We hope to see you Face to Face; and perhaps may not be quite unacquainted to you, tho' we have been at Sea in no ungenteel Posts before this Expedition we are speaking of. Our Queries are not so well digested as we will have them; and therefore beg you will please to dispense longer with them and us; yet as a Specimen of what we shall and will do. Query, Why did not our Discoverer give all the Encouragement possible to the Northern *Indians* he employed, and why he used them as Slaves?

Q. Whether, if he had taken their Advice, he would not have made a short Passage to, &c. before

he saw *Wager* River (or more justly a Streight, the Tide running so rapid) before he was embay'd in the Ice.

Q. Whether he did not haul out of the Tide, to prevent our driving into the desir'd Passage?

Q. If he did not sacrifice the *Indians*, lest they should tell Tales, being pretty forward in the *English* Language?

The next or following Post shall bring you *Queries ab origine ad finem*. We are ingenuously, honoured Sir, &c.

*Messrs. Brook and Cobham.*

*P.S.* Direct for us as before. *Fox* was an honest Man.

The *Hudson's Bay* Company are intending to settle a Factory on the *Labrador Coast* in *Hudson's Bay*, in order to trade with *Indians* and *Eskimaux*, and to fix the Settlement as nigh the Opening from that Bay and the *Atlantic Ocean*.

*Here follows George Axx the Gunver's Letter, which he sent with his Draught of the frozen Streight near Cape Frigid, which is a Duplicate of what he sent to one of the Lords of the Admiralty.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XXXIX.

Mr. WIGATE.

SIR,

*Liverpool, April 15, 1743.*

THIS comes in Answer to your Letter, and I have sent you the best I know. And as for that Place where the Captain, and you, and myself, and the Carpenter was, it is an Island, that I am sure of; and it was about three Leagues from this Island to the Main, and the Island about seven Leagues long; and as for the Height of the Land I cannot tell, but it was as high as any of the rest as ever you see

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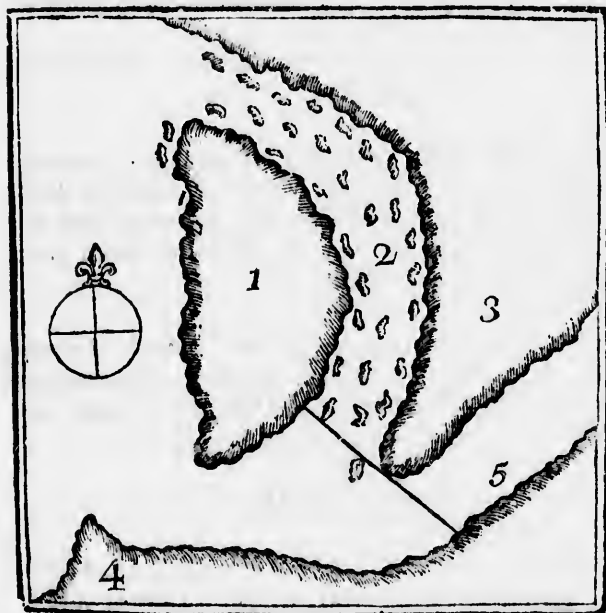


see any where about that Place, and there is a Sketch of it. But as to that you must excuse, because I cannot do it no otherwise, but that is it to my best Opinion. Pray give my Duty to the Captain, and be so good to let me know when he gets a Ship, and what Ship; and in so doing you will much oblige

Your humble Servant,

George Axx.

The DRAUGHT.



REFERENCES, in the Gunner's Words.

- 1. The Island that You was upon with the Capt. the Carpenter, and myself; it is about three Leagues from the Main.
- 2. This was a whole Body of Ice, frozen from Side to Side, with about thirty small Islands in the Middle and Sides, and is about 7 Leagues long and 3 wide
- 3. This is the Main: Very high Land.
- 4. Low-Beach Point.
- 5. A Channel running N E.

U N°.

**W**Hereas it hath been reported by Capt. *Middleton*, that Mr. *Norton*, late Governor of *Churchill*, travelled from *Whale Cove*, in the Latitude of 62°. odd to 65°. odd inland, without Interruption of any Lakes, Rivers or Streights, and could perceive no such Thing as any Inlet or Opening to the South Sea, &c.

To confute this, it has been several Times reported by the said *Norton*, that so far as he travelled he saw nothing but broken Lands and Islands from 60°. to the Extent of his Journey; and that the native *Indians* he had then with him gave him a very good Account of a Copper Mine upon the Side or Bank of a large River or Streight; and that a Person might easily go with a Ship or Sloop, and ly close to the Side thereof, and fill their Vessel with the aforefaid Metal at Pleasure.

Likewile the two Northern *Indians* that we took in at *Churchill*, the one named *Nabiana*, the other *Iazana* (tho' upon the Ship's Books they are call'd *Claybulla* and *Cloydiddy*) gave me a particular and more confirmative Account than Mr. *Norton's*. They mark'd out upon my Table the Tract of Land or Confines of their Country, as far as they knew, together with the Course of some remarkable fresh Water Rivers in their Country; but in particular they gave a very good and clear Account of a Copper Mine, which they generally used to go to once in two Years; and at this Copper Mine there is a large River or Streight, salt Water and strong Tides, Plenty of a large kind of black Fish, which by their Description I imagine to be Whales; and that they were five Days in crossing that salt Water in their Canoes; and that this River or Streight was so deep, that they could find no Bot-

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tom with a Deer Skin cut into very small Thongs, and at least was an hundred Fathoms long; that the Course of this River run towards the Sun at Noon-day, and this River appeared to me to be about the Latitude of  $63^{\circ}$ . or thereabouts; for they seemed, in our Voyage, to have more Knowledge of the Land near that Latitude than in any other Part of our Discovery; and when we sailed to the North-eastward of that Latitude, they told us we were going from the Copper Mine, and the River they spoke of.

The Country these Nations inhabit in Summer, upon account of their killing Deer, they told me was all barren, high and rocky, and that they go inland in the Winter to the Southward to catch Beaver and other Furrs. I had frequent Conference with these two *Indians*, who seemed to be well affected towards me, and were never better pleased than when I was writing a Vocabulary of their Language; by which I might be enabled to discourse with them more familiarly, and they were very eager of learning *English*.

The Captain frequently forbid me talking with them, or coming near them, and threatned to cut my Ears off, and take my Papers from me; so that we were obliged to meet privately when Opportunity served, otherwise I might have obtained a great deal more.

Since the Captain's coming Home, he told Mr. *Ellis* of the Victualling-Office, that he could be Director of the *Hudson's Bay* Company whenever he pleased, which gives some Suspicion, that he endeavoured to favour that Company too much. Given under our Hands this 9th Day of *April*, 1743.

Edward Thompson.  
John Wigate.

*Messrs. Wigate and Thompson's Depositions, taken before William Calvert, Esq; at his House in Thames-street, London, April 25, 1743.*

**T**HESE two Deponents *Edward Thompson*, late Surgeon of his Majesty's Sloop *Furnace*, and *John Wigate*, Clerk of the said Sloop, do, in the most solemn Manner make Oath, and hereby declare, that they, nor either of them, have any personal Antipathy, private Animosity, or are any Ways affected with Partiality, upon any Account whatever, against *Christopher Middleton*, late Commander of his Majesty's Sloop *Furnace*; and that what they have wrote or said concerning a Passage from *Hudson's Bay* to *Japan*, *China*, and other Countries, is from the natural Occurrences they met with in the Voyage; and moreover declare, that tho' their Stations on Board that Sloop did not require them to examine into the executive Part of navigating the Vessel, yet they were incited by Words Capt. *C. Middleton* spoke before the Chief-Factor at *Churchill*, his Deputy, his Surgeon, the Lieutenant of the *Furnace* and themselves, which Words were expressly thus, or to the same Effect, *That he would make the Voyage he was order'd upon, and that no Man but himself should be able to know whether there was a Passage or not; and that he would be a better Friend to the Hudson's-Bay Company than ever.* — These Words were the principal Motives which induc'd the two abovementioned Deponents to be *Strict Observers* of the Occurrences of the Voyage, for the publick Good of *Great Britain* and the Government, under whose Pay they actually were, and not otherwise. Given under their Hands this 25th Day of *April*, 1743.

Edward Thompson.  
John Wigate.

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N<sup>o</sup>. XLII.

*Mr. Samuel Smith's Account of the Trading Goods sent on board the Discovery to be dispos'd of by his Brother; with an Answer to some Charges brought against him by Capt. Middleton.*

SIR,

London, Septem. 6. 1743.

“ Captain Middleton having mention'd my  
“ Name in his Defence, as an Agent of yours,  
“ &c. and given the World a very false Account  
“ of the Conversations he had with me at different  
“ Times; I think it just to send you a Declaration  
“ of the Facts and Circumstances that came to my  
“ Knowledge in the Course of this Affair, and  
“ leave it to you to make what Use you think pro-  
“ per of it; assuring you that I shall be ready at  
“ any Time to make an Affidavit of the Truth of  
“ the whole, or any Part, that Captain Middleton  
“ shall object to.

To Arthur Dobbs, Esq;  
in Dublin.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

Sam. Smith.

THE first Notice I had of Captain Middleton's Return from the Expedition he went upon, was by Letters which the Captain wrote to the Secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company, from the Orkneys and Yarmouth Road. When I heard that the Ships were arrived in the River, I went down and met them below Galleon's Reach. Upon my going on board the *Furnace*, I ask'd Captain Middleton if I might congratulate him upon his finding the North-west Passage? to which he replied, that it was not yet proper to be known, *because he had some Affairs to settle with the Hudson's Bay Company.*

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Mr.

I told him that I thought it very extraordinary he should conceal it from me, whom he knew to be a Friend of, and to correspond with Mr. *Dobbs*. The Captain answer'd, that he had prepar'd a Letter for Mr. *Dobbs*, which he gave me to read and forward: But after I had read it, I told him I could not judge by it whether there was a Passage or not, and ask'd him again, If there was a Passage? To which he replied, Mr. *Dobbs* will understand that Letter. Finding no Satisfaction from the Captain, I immediately apply'd to others on board, but they answer'd me in the same dark and ambiguous Manner.

The Conversation the Captain mentions to have had with me in Page 10 of his Defence, is intirely false, viz. *That I much importun'd him to write to Mr. Dobbs, that there might be still Hopes left of a Passage, even tho' he thought otherwise*; surely it would have been ridiculous in me to have desir'd him to write that there might be still Hopes left of a Passage, when at the same time I knew he took great Pains to make the Publick believe there was no Passage. It is true that I was at Captain *Middleton's* Lodgings several Times, and talk'd to him upon a Scheme Mr. *Dobbs* was desirous to prosecute, *of opening and enlarging the Trade to Hudion's Bay*, (upon the Presumption that there was no Passage Westward through the Bay to the South Sea, which I then thought was put out of Dispute, because the Captain in all his Letters to Mr. *Dobbs*, since his Return, endeavour'd to make him believe that all to the Northward was a Main-land); but the Captain disapprov'd the Scheme, and mention'd some Objections, such as the Severity of the Climate, and the Dangers that Strangers would be expos'd to from the Number of *French* that inhabited the Inland Country. However, I thought his Objections of little Weight, and press'd him not to be so strenuous

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strenuous in opposing Mr. *Dobbs's* Scheme. But the more I press'd, the more he endeavour'd to discourage and divert it. Indeed he told me, that if the Government would give him the Command of five Ships, with some Land Forces, he would engage to take *Canada* from the *French*: Which was plainly calculated to serve the *Hudson's Bay* Company; since the *French* then could not interfere in their Trade as they now do: So that his whole View was to fix the *Hudson's Bay* Company's Trade, instead of laying it open for the Benefit of the Merchants in *Britain*, which was the Scheme Mr. *Dobbs* had in View.

The considerable Advantage that the Captain says I expected, was no other than the Opportunity of entering earlier into the Trade to *Hudson's Bay*, than other People who were unappriz'd of Mr. *Dobbs's* Scheme to lay open that Trade.

In other Places of Captain *Middleton's* Defence he insinuates, and afterwards asserts, that Mr. *Dobbs* was disappointed of many Hundreds of Pounds, which he and his Agents might have gain'd, had he, *i. e.* Captain *Middleton*, permitted it; and that he was accus'd by Mr. *Dobbs* of not having done his Duty, only because he had prevented their obtaining the Advantages they aim'd at. This is absolutely false, if he means that I was Mr. *Dobbs's* Agent, and shipp'd Goods on board on his Account: For I now declare, that Mr. *Dobbs* did not send, nor was he interested in one Pennyworth of Goods that was sent by the *Furnace* or *Discovery*, to my Knowledge or Belief. What the Captain alludes to, must be a small Adventure I sent with my Brother *James Smith*, who was on board the *Furnace* or *Discovery*, which cost me all Charges on board, L. 35 : 12 : 3. This I had Captain *Middleton's* Consent for, and it was shipp'd with his Privity; nay he even promis'd, at my Request, to take Care  
of

of my Interest, in case of my Brother's Death on the Voyage; and to prevent my making any Mistake, in sending improper Goods, he himself gave me a List of those Commodities the Company trade in; tho' in his Defence he asserts, that he knew nothing of the Matter till he got to the *Orkneys*.

The Strefs the Captain seems to lay upon my Brother's having sign'd the Journal, plainly shews, how low he was reduced to want a Testimony of his Skill and Honesty from a Youth of sixteen Years, who had never been at Sea before, but as a Passenger from *Dublin* to *Park-gate*.

*Coleaton Street,*  
Sept. 6. 1743.

*Sam. Smith.*

N<sup>o</sup>. XLIII.<sup>1</sup>

*Lieut. Rankin's farther Answer to the XIth Query, which he had omitted signing, when before the Lords of the Admiralty.*

“ Yet I remember I was haul'd away to the NE  
“ between 10 and 11 of the Clock, whether by the  
“ Flood or Ebb I knew not, but was oblig'd to set  
“ the Jibb, Stay-fails and Top-gallant-fails to get  
“ clear of the NE. Shore.

*John Rankin.*

P A P E R S deliver'd to *Lieut. Rankin*, by *Alex. Morrison*, *John Armount*, and *Abraham Humble*, *Petty Officers on board the Furnace*, sign'd and attested by themselves and others; which relate to Part of the Voyage.

W H E N I, *Alexander Morrison*, (whose Name is undermentioned) was up the *Wager* Streights with the Lieutenant, I could not see any Ice nigh the Opening opposite to *Deer Sound*. We  
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saw a great many black Whales, of the Whalebone Kind, come into *Deer Sound* every Tide. I cannot believe that those Whales came in at the Mouth of *Wager* Streights, as the Captain and some other Creatures would willingly make People believe, in order to answer to his own End; for the strong rapid Tide we saw nigh *Brook Cobham*, (and a great many Whales of the right Whalebone Kind) where I well remember, that in bringing up the Ice-boat, to try the Tide, Mr. *Wishart*, the Mate, was in the Boat, the Tide broke the Deep-sea Lead-line, and lost a Lead of 50 Pound Weight. The Captain went into the Boat himself, in a very great Passion, to try the Tide, when he saw every body staring so very eagerly at the Rapidness of it; and at his Return on board said it ran but 2 Miles 6 Fathoms. I was at the Cond the same time, and am very certain the Tide ran above 6 Miles an Hour, and have heard the Officers say so many times. The Number of Whales we saw there, and off *Deer Sound*, all of the right Whalebone Kind, gives me reason to believe there is a Passage thereabouts from some Western Ocean, and one that comes into *Wager* Streights, opposite to *Deer Sound*; for the Ice was gone at that Opening opposite *Deer Sound* long before it was in the Middle of the Streights. The 27th of *July*, when I was up the Streights with the Lieutenant, there was no Ice to be seen on that Opening opposite to *Deer Sound*, nor so much as one Piece of Ice to be seen above the high Bluff Point, to the highest we went up. The Streights is 11 or 12 Leagues broad; the Water was very salt all the Way up, and actually so within three Miles of the Fall or Ripling we saw. As to Captain *Middleton's* Affidavit-mens drinking fresh Water three Leagues above *Deer Sound*, among Ice, will scarce prove it a fresh Water River; for Ham and Veal, with strong Beer, Flip and Punch, they eat and drank, might

hurt and enfeeble their Memories, tho' indeed several of them was never up the Streights at all, and swear by Hearsay. I have many times drank the Water where our Ship lay the Winter, within two Miles of the Sea, and many of our Men I have seen do the same, which plainly shews that their Affidavits is no reason to prove *Wager* Streights a fresh Water River, as Captain *Middleton* would make the World believe.

*August* the sixth, I steer'd the Boat with the Lieutenant to the *Low Beach* Point, and the Tide I very well remember was falling, and had ebb'd about 2 Foot by the *Beach* Point, and set so very strong about the Point to the S. W. that we were like to be drove round the Point, which the Lieutenant was very much vex'd with, and struck me because I could not keep right against the Tide, it run so very strong. He, as he said, had no Victuals for himself nor us, if we had been forced round the Point, as we had like to have been. When we got on board, I heard him tell the Captain that the Tide had ebb'd about 2 Foot on the Point at three of the Clock, when they made a Signal for the Boat; but the Captain, to answer his own End, set it in the Logg-book, *He found it to be the Flood-tide, and it came from the Eastward*, which is very false. I very well remember that we pass'd by what he called the *Frozen Streights*, within two or three Miles of the Islands in the Mouth of it. Neither the Lieutenant nor any of the Boat's Crew could see any Appearance of any Opening, yet the Captain has named that a frozen Streight, and *Wager* Streights, that is above three times broader, must pass with him for a River, which shews his Design to impose upon the Publick, and answer his own Ends. I never saw any Whale in the Streights nor Bay, nor ever heard of any but since we came home, but near *Brook Cobham* and *Deer Sound*, and all of them of the right

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Whalbone Kind, as I very well understand them, having been a Whale fishing in *Greenland* before in the Merchants Service. All this I can make Affidavit to, to be real Fact, as well as several more can do, beside us undermentioned,

*Alexander Morrison.*  
*John Armount.*  
*Abraham Humble.*

Witness

*Robert Fiske,* } Midshipmen on board the *Princess Royal.*  
*John Seeward,* }

*Another PAPER sign'd by the Lieutenant, and attested by others.*

**T**HE Soundings up the East Channel between the Island and the East Side or Island is 45, 40, 30, and 25 Fathom, soft Ground, in the Middle of the Channel, and from 16 to 6 Fathoms within a Quarter of a Cable's Length to some of the Islands, and good Soundings thro' in many Channels between those Islands. The Depth of Water is 18 Fathoms, where I founded, and 7 or 8 Fathoms within half a Cable's Length of the Islands. The Channel between the Islands and the East Side is three or four Miles broad. We went into a Bay or Cove on the East Side; good clear Ground. Soundings from 30 to 5 Fathoms. The Tide came from the Southwestward of the Islands, and flowed 13 Foot.

The Northernmost Island bearing N. by W. Distant 4 or 5 Miles. The Soundings from the Bay or Cove to the Northernmost Point on this Side the Bluff is 45, 40, 30, 20 Fathoms, according to the Distance we were off the Shore. Above the Islands from the East Side to the S. W. Side is six or seven Leagues broad. The Land runs N. W. by W. The Tide flow'd nearest N. W. by W. along Shore. We

ran into a Bay or Cove at the North End of the Point on this Side the high Bluff. The Soundings from 20 to 15, 12, 10, 8, 6 Fathoms; good clear Ground, and clear of the Ice.

The Tide of Flood came from the Southward, and flow'd thirteen Feet and a half. The Streights above the Islands is 6 or 7 Leagues broad. I went up the highest Land on the East Side, and set the Land by Compass. There is a Bluff Point on the South Side, with three low Islands off it, and a low Point at the Back of it, that bore S. by E. by Compass from us, and a low sloping Point, that bore S. by W. with that Opening to us. The Land ran from the S. by W. to the N. W. a high mountainous Land. It ran down with a Bluff Point, and a low Point, at a small Distance from it; and then ran up to a very high mountainous Land, and round again to the high bluff Point. There appearing to me from the high Land I was upon. It being about one Quarter Flood or more by the Tide that came through the Streights. I saw the Ice break up, and set round the Point I stood upon with some Force, that all the Ice was presently in Motion in the Middle of the Channel against the Flood, and was almost clear in the Middle this Morning. It is nine or ten Leagues broad.

July 16, 1742.

John Rankin.

All this is Matter of Fact, for I was with the Lieutenant upon the high Land, and with a Perspective Glass set that Opening opposite to Deer Point by Compass, and found it to bear as here set down. The next Time I was upon the said high Land with the Lieutenant, we saw the Ice clear of the Opening, altho' there was much Ice driving in the Middle of the Channel, but none to interrupt the Boat in her Passage up the Streights. And I am very sure the Water was salt as could be among

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mong so much Ice, as was in the Streights at that Time, and such a Quantity of Snow as was melting up the high Land. All this is true, as we are ready to make Affidavit of, if required, as witness my Hand, as well as those underwritten, this 22d Day of November, 1743.

*Alexander Morrison.*

*John Armount.*

*Abraham Humble.*

Witness

*Rob. Fiske.*

*John Seward.*

} Midshipmen on Board the *Princess Royal.*

*Lieut. Rankin's Answer to several Aspersions cast upon him by Capt. Middleton.*

**C**APT. *Middleton*, in his Account of what [*he says*] pass'd between Mr. *D*— and himself, endeavours to asperse Mr. *Rankin's* Character, not only by making a Scoff of all his Journal, Reports, &c. but by descending to an unprecedented Meanness, in doing his Utmost to make the World have a mean Opinion of his Understanding, by publishing some private Letters of the Lieutenant's, which he has cloathed in a wretched kind of Burlesque, wherefore Mr. *Rankin* thinks himself under a Necessity to vindicate himself, by answering the several Falsties, which Captain *Middleton* has unjustly charg'd him with.

Captain *Middleton*, in Page 12 of his Vindication, says, *He sent to Mr. Rankin and Mr. Wilson, and desired them that they would bring their original Log-books with them, which they did, and we passed most Part of the Day in comparing them with mine, Mr. James Smith assisting us; and finding them agree in every Thing of Consequence, they testified the same in Writing, and so did Mr. Smith in the first blank Leaf of my Journal.*

*Ans.*

*Ans.* 'Tis true I sign'd with the Master and Mr. *Smith* in the Afternoon, but that I brought my Log-book is very false, as well as what he advances concerning my declaring an entire Dislike to Mr. *Dobbs's* practising with me; and what he farther adds of Mr. *Dobbs's* endeavouring to make my Wife believe that *Middleton* had threatned to cane me, and persuading her to influence me to revenge it one way or other, is a glaring Falshood. The Log-book, which he has thought fit to print, is much altered from that I sign'd, and differs from that I took every Day out of the Ship's Log-book. I find several Things in his Log-book that are not in mine, and a great deal in my Log-book that he has kept out, which shews his uncandid Dealings.

Page 13, Captain *Middleton* says, *That Mr. Wilson's Profession of resenting Mr. Dobbs's Proceedings was undoubtedly sincere, as will appear to your Lordships from his Affidavit; but I cannot say the like of my Lieutenant, tho' he meant me honestly at first, else in a Letter under his own Hand, which I intreat your Lordships to read, proves him the worst of Hypocrites; but the specious Promise of a Command in another N. W. Expedition, appears to have operated upon him, and soon altered his Conduct.*

*Ans.* Here Captain *Middleton* proves himself the most deceitful and worst of all Hypocrites; for he says, the specious Promise of a Command soon alter'd my Conduct, which is like the rest of the Falshoods he has had recourse to, to support his Conduct, (as he calls it) for no such Thing was promised to me except by himself; for during the Voyage he often told me, he would get me a Command as soon as he came home, which was several times repeated after our Arrival in the River of *Thames*. I was there promised by him, that he would get me the Command of the *Royal Escape* to go upon a Survey with him of the Coast of *Scotland*,

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land, and that he would make it appear it was necessary for two Ships to go upon the Survey, and we should winter at *Shields* or *Stockton*.

Captain *Middleton* also promised that he would get me a Purse of Guineas for my Care in not letting the Men trade with the Natives in *Hudson's Bay*. And the Governor there said to me, he was sure the Company would make me a Present worth my accepting.

Page 38, he refers to *Logg-books and Journals for the Tide running 4 or 5 Miles an Hour*, and in the same Page he recants his former Words which he used at *Churchill*, That a N. W. Wind made the highest Tide, and is confirmed by our Journals, May the 25th and 28th, when he sent three Expresses to me to get all our Iron, Ballast and Cables, on board, to keep the Ship from straining. We had not the Wind at N. W. two Hours upon the Flood, before it proved to be the highest Tide we had that Season, and flowed two Foot and a Half above the Ship's Water-line, as the Carpenter wrote to the Captain. His Letters of that Day's Date I have by me. The Tide in two Hours Flood, with the Wind at N. W. flowed above three Foot higher than any Spring-tide I saw from the 30th of *March* to the latter End of *May*.

In Page 43, where he represents the Danger of the Ice, and loosing Lives and Ships, and that he was never able to get to the Factory but six times in 23 Years before the 20th Day of *August*, cannot be true; for those two Years we were there the *Hudson's Bay* Ship got to *Churchill* the 15th of *July*. He likewise says, there could be no entering those Streights before the latter End of *August*, which appears to me to be a Falshood, since Logg-book and Journal shew that there was no Ice to be seen until we passed Lat. 60°. 55'. nor any to hinder our Passage, until we were in Lat. 64°. 51'.

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He has put down, in the Logg-book and Journals, that I found it to be Flood-tide when I was at the Low Beach, and that it came from the Eastward, which is false, as the Men who were in the Boat with me have testified under their Hands, and that the Tide had ebb'd about two Foot; nevertheless it must be Flood with him, to answer his Ends. But why did not Captain *Middleton* send the Boat to that Opening I saw off *Marble Island*? I told him of it, and gave him a Draught and Soundings of a Cove, when he ordered me to look out for a safe Place for the Ships, and that Cove, I am sure, is as safe as the Basin in *Deptford Yard*; he may object that 'tis very narrow, but there is good anchoring between a small Island and that Cove for several Ships, and no Wind can hurt them but from the S. E.

I can't but take Notice, that I have no Account in the Logg-Book or Journals of any Whales seen off the River *Wager's* Mouth. I had the Watch from 4 in the Morning to 8, and am very sure that no Whale was seen by me or any of the Watch to blow. Nor did I hear of any till the Afternoon when I sign'd Captain *Middleton's* Logg-book and Journal, when he ask'd me if I saw any Whales blow off the River's Mouth? I told him no; he said he saw one, which has bred two more since that Time, and in Page 69 he says, that several were seen.

Page 70, His saying, that *that there was no going higher up*, is false; for there was no Fall but one, and I told him I took it to be the Tide from the Westward. We were in a Sound three or four Miles broad between the Islands, and West Southerly Land, and the Straight is about 8 or 10 Leagues broad; there was not one Piece of Ice to be seen above the high Bluff, as may be seen in the Report given me by *John Armount* and *Alexander Morrijo*n  
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Quarter-Masters, and *Abraham Humble* Boatswain's Yeoman, and likewise in their Report about the Opening I set opposite to *Deer Sound*; they were in the Boat with me, and saw the Opening with my Perspective Glass, as all of them own, and affirm that when Captain *Middleton* sent for them to make Affidavits they refused to go to him.

In Page 74, he says, *Besides, if there be no such Streights, whence should the strong Tide of four Miles an Hour come, which we met with there.* Surely he forgets the strong and rapid Tide we met with in Lat.  $63^{\circ} 20'$ . which broke the Deep-sea Lead Line, and lost a Lead of 50 Pounds Weight. He went in the Boat himself, tried the Tide, and told me it flow'd 2 Miles 6 Fathom, but artfully set down in the Logg-Book 2 Miles 2 Fathom, tho' all on board took it to run more than 6 Miles an Hour. *But that would not answer his Ends.*

In Page 75, Captain *Middleton's* Words are these, *Does not this shew that the Projector of the Voyage had the Advantage of a clandestine Trade at Heart, as much or more than the publick Utility of a Discovery?* This bold Assertion surprizes me; certainly he has forgot those who traded with what was not their own.

In Page 87, Master's Answer, *We were carried S. E. b. S. as the Course of Land lies by Compass from the River's Mouth towards Cape Dobbs, until we met the Channel Ebb from the W. b. S. by Compass.* It is very plain that what he calls the Ebb from the W. b. S. was actually the Flood Tides; for the Ice opened and we got over to the North Shore, as is mentioned in the Reports. The Opening I saw was near the Island within the River's Mouth, and was full of Ice.

*Secretary CORBETT's Letter to William Moor, late Commander of his Majesty's Pink Discovery, commanding his Answers to certain Queries.*

SIR, *Admiralty-Office, Dec. 13, 1743.*

I Am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you inclosed certain Queries relating to the late-attempted Discovery of a North-west Passage by Captain *Middleton*, in his Majesty's Sloop the *Furnace*, accompanied by the *Discovery Pink*, of which you was Master; and I am order'd to signify their Lordship's strict Direction to you, carefully to examine the said Queries, and to make impartial and particular Answers to every one of them; and then transmit the same to me, in order to their being laid before their Lordships. I am, Sir,

*Your humble Servant,*

THOMAS CORBETT.

*To Mr. Moor, Master  
of the Discovery Pink.*

*The following Letter I receiv'd from Secretary Corbett, together with certain Queries answered by Mr. William Moor.*

SIR, *Admiralty-Office, Dec. 23, 1743.*

MR. *William Moor*, late Master of the *Discovery Pink*, having made his Answers to the Queries transmitt'd hither in your Letter of the 12th Instant, relating to the late-attempted Discovery of a North-west Passage, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you inclosed a Copy thereof, for your Information, and am, Sir,

*Your most humble Servant,*

*To Arthur Dobbs, Esq;*

THOMAS CORBETT.

QUERIES

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## Q U E R I E S

*Propos'd by the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty, and answered by Mr. William Moor, late Commander of his Majesty's Pink Discovery.*

### Q U E R Y I.

“ H O W many Knots does the Tide run at the Mouth of *Hudson's Streights*, between *Resolution* and *Button's Isles*; upon what Point of the Compass the Tide of Flood sets; whether it does not abate its Rapidity in Proportion as you sail to the Westward of *Resolution*; and whether it does not lose half its Force, when you are so high up as *Cape Charles* ?”

*Ans.* The Tide, at entering *Hudson's Streights*, when clear of Ice, runs not above three Knots W. S. W. and E. N. E. but when choak-fell from *Button's Isles* to *Resolution*, neither the Course nor Strength of it can be fixed to any Certainty; for in less than 8 Hours it will sometimes set from all Quarters of the Compass, and run above 5 Knots for 8 or 10 Minutes. This happens only in the Narrows; for we find the Tide to abate in Proportion the higher we run up *Hudson's Streights*, and at *Cape Charles* to have lost near half its Force.

### Q U E R Y II.

“ Whether, in an outward-bound Passage thro' *Hudson's Streight*, it is not best to keep the North

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“ Shore

“ Shore aboard, as nigh as may be, with a Nor-  
“ therly leading Gale? whether the Ice does not  
“ wholly set to the Southward in that Streight?  
“ and whether the North Shore is not steep too half  
“ Way up?

*Ans.* The North Shore we frequently make bold  
with; for the Ice will open in-shore, and make  
Gleers every Tide, unless the Wind blows for some  
time at South upon the Shore. The Ice sets over to  
the Southward, when once it comes as low as the  
*lower Salvages*. The North Shore we have always  
found it steep to, for above half way up.

### Q U E R Y III.

“ Whether it would not have been proper, as  
“ you had fine Weather, to have try'd the Tides  
“ between the Isles of *Nottingham* and *Salisbury*, in  
“ order to have known the Nature of the Tide from  
“ the Northward, as *Bassins Bay, Cape Comfort, &c.*  
“ And how far is the Distance of the North Main  
“ from *Nottingham* and *Salisbury*?”

*Ans.* To have try'd the Tides between *Notting-  
ham* and *Salisbury* would have given great Satis-  
faction; but being so late in the Year, and with-  
in seven Hours run of getting out of the Streights  
with the Gale we had then, we could not have done  
it without the Loss of 8 or 10 Hours sail. The  
North Shore from *Salisbury* is 4 or 5 Leagues, and  
7 or 8 Leagues from *Nottingham*.

### Q U E R Y IV.

“ Whether you did not hear Capt. *Middleton*  
“ say at *Churchill*, before the Governor, his De-  
“ puty, and Surgeon of the Factory; the Lieu-  
“ tenant, Surgeon and Clerk of the *Furnace*, that  
“ he would make the Voyage he was ordered up-  
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“ on, and no Man but himself should know whether there was a Passage or not; and that he would be a better Friend to the *Hudson's Bay* Company than ever?”

*Ans.* I have heard Captain *Middleton* say more than once, that he could make the Passage, and no Man on board of him should know, whether there was one or not, and that he would be a better Friend to the Company than ever.

Q U E R Y V.

“ Whether the Captain of the *Furnace* did not desire you to copy his Journal, that you might both agree; and whether, upon your Refusal, there was not a Quarrel for some Months?”

*Ans.* As the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty were then pleased to honour me with the Command of the *Discovery* Pink, I hope the Exactness and Sincerity of my Journal will answer for my Behaviour in that Point; and as for any Quarrel or Animosity betwixt Captain *Middleton* and me, I do not remember any, on my Side, the whole Term of the Voyage.

Q U E R Y VI.

“ Whether, from the best Information you have got in your several Voyages, and from your own Knowledge, that the Ice in the River *Churchill* constantly breaks up before the 14th of *June*; and whether you could not have got out of the said River before the first of *July*, if the Winds had not prevented you?”

*Ans.* The Ice in *Churchill* River has but once broke up sooner, than what it did the Spring we was there, for 20 Years past, yet it frequently breaks up

up between the 6th and 14th of *June*. It was impossible for us to have got the Ships one Day sooner to Sea than what we did, had the Winds been never so fair ; for it was the 23d of *June* before we got the *Discovery's* Keel cut loose from the Ground.

Q U E R Y VII.

“ Whether, when you was out of the River,  
“ you saw any Ice to prevent your searching any  
“ Openings or Inlets on the West Side of the *Wel-*  
“ *come*, till you got near the 64th Degree of La-  
“ titude ?

*Ans.* We met with no Ice to prevent our searching any Openings or Inlets, till we got to the Northward of 63°. 40'. North ; nor any but what we call sailing Ice, before we got into the *Welcome*.

Q U E R Y VIII.

“ Whether, when you first saw that Land call'd  
“ *Marble Island*, Captain *Middleton* did not hoist  
“ anchoring Colours ? and whether you did not pre-  
“ pare to anchor ? What were his Reasons for not  
“ coming to an anchor there ? and whether you  
“ did not imagine it would have been for the Ser-  
“ vice, to have tried the Tide at that Place ?”

*Ans.* Captain *Middleton* hoisted anchoring Colours, and we made all ready to anchor ; but what his Reason was for not anchoring I cannot tell, it being then fine, clear Weather, and quite smooth Water, and consequently would have been of Service to have tried the Tide there, if Captain *Middleton* had it in his Power.

Q U E R Y IX.

“ How many Knots did the Tide run when  
“ you was off the Head-land, in Lat. 63°. 20' ?  
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“ Whether you imagine that Tide fills *Hudson's*  
“ *Streights* and *Bay*, or comes from a different  
“ Ocean than that which supplies either or both  
“ those Places? Whether it was possible in your  
“ short Stay there to know the Flood from the  
“ Ebb, especially as you did not come to an An-  
“ chor, or send a Boat ashore ?”

*Ans.* I cannot justly say how many Knots the  
Tide runs off that Head-land, altho' I tried the  
Tide myself with the current Logg ; for we had a  
small Breeze, so I could not tell, to any Exactness ;  
but it was my Opinion that the Tide ran above two  
or three Knots, but the Flood from the Ebb I did  
not know.

Q U E R Y X.

“ Whether it would not have been the most e-  
“ ligible and proper Method, when you saw Ice a-  
“ head of you, to the Northward, in Lat. 64°. to  
“ have searched the West Side of the *Welcome*, in  
“ less Northern Latitudes, where the Shores were  
“ clear from Ice, and thereby to have got a Cer-  
“ tainty of the Height and Direction of the Tides,  
“ with the exact Time of high and low Water ?”

*Ans.* In my humble Opinion it would have been the  
only Thing that we could have done to have searched  
that Bay, where *Scroggs* drove into, in a Gale of  
Wind, and found the Tide to flow 5 Fathoms ; and  
I believe that Captain *Middleton* would have searched  
all that Shore, from *Whale Cove* to *Whalebone Point*,  
had his Orders not been first to double that Point.

Q U E R Y XI.

“ How many Knotts did you find the Tide to  
“ run in *Wager River* at your first entering it ?”

*Ans.*

*Ans.* The Tide ran above 7 Knots in *Wager River*; for I hove the Logg, and the Ship run by it 6 Knots, 4 Fathom, at the same time she fell a-stern by the Land.

Q U E R Y XII.

“ When you, Captain *Middleton*, and the Boat’s Crew, went out from *Deer Sound* into *Wager River*, how far was you from the Shore, when the Men tasted the Water? In what manner did they taste it, their Opinion of it, and whether you was near the Mid-channel of that River? Whether there was any Intention to go over to the South-west Side, or whether there was any Ice to prevent you?”

*Ans.* When I was in the Boat with Captain *Middleton* above *Deer Sound*, about a Quarter of a Mile from the Shore, the Men tasted the Water in their Hands, and said it was not very salt. After that we pull’d towards the Mid-channel, and got about one Quarter of the Way over, and then turn’d back, and landed on the East Side, about two or three Leagues above our Tent. Captain *Middleton*’s Intentions were to go over when we left the Tent. I believe there was Ice driving with the Tide, but not so much as to prevent us going over.

Q U E R Y XIII.

“ Whether you was not present when the Lieutenant of the *Furnace* brought three Bottles of Water into Captain *Middleton*’s Cabbin, which he had taken up at three different Places, one of which was filled near a Current or Water-fall; and whether Captain *Middleton*, after having tasted them all, did not declare that Water to be saltest, which was taken the farthest up the River?”

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*Ans.* I was present when the Lieutenant of the *Furnace* brought the three Bottles of Water down the River; Captain *Middleton* gave it in as his Opinion, that that Bottle taken the highest up was the faltest.

Q U E R Y XIV.

“ Whether, after coming out of *Wager River*,  
“ you saw any Whales till your Return to the Head-  
“ land, in Lat. 63°. 20' ?”

*Ans.* I saw no Whales below *Deer Sound*, nor no where till we came near *Marble Island*.

Q U E R Y XV.

“ Whether you did not see a fair Channel dis-  
“ joining that Shore, since nam'd *Cape Frigid*,  
“ from the low Beach; its Width from that Cape  
“ to the low Beach is desired ?”

*Ans.* The Time Captain *Middleton* was ashore at the Cape, the Ships were set close into these Straits with the Tide, when we could plainly see the Channel running close to the low Beach, by the Ice driving the Breadth of these Straits. From *Cape Frigid* to the low Beach is about three Miles.

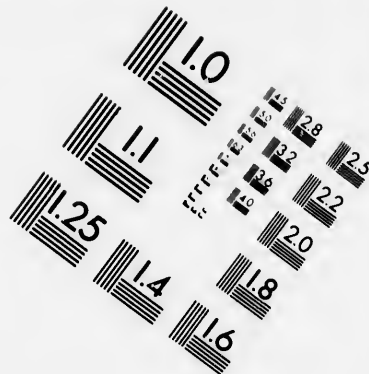
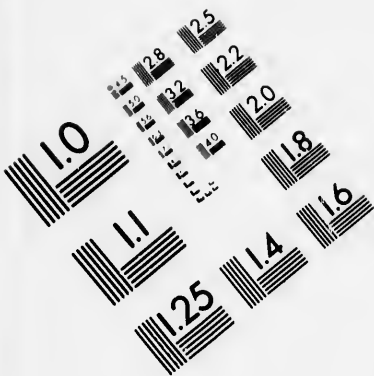
Q U E R Y XVI.

“ Whether you imagine there is in reality a fro-  
“ zen Strait, where Captain *Middleton* has laid down  
“ one in his Draughts, and whether it is possible so  
“ strong a Flood Tide as fills *Wager River*, the  
“ *Welcome*, with all its Inlets and Openings, can  
“ come through such a Strait? or whether it is not  
“ a glaring Piece of Artifice of the Captain's, to  
“ make such a Strait, in order to bring the Flood  
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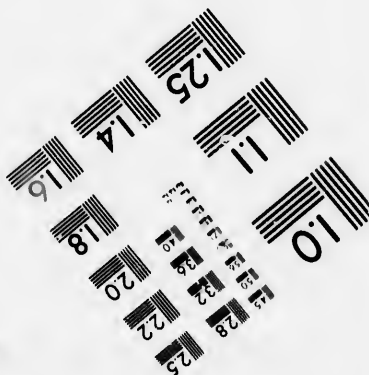
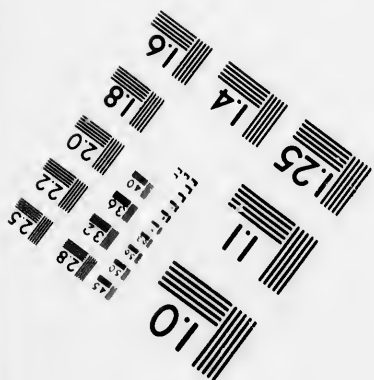
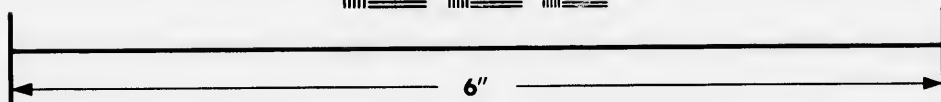
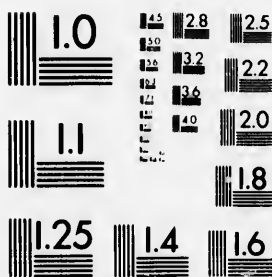
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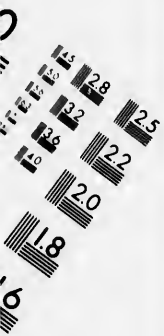


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“ from *Baffin's Bay* and *Hudson's Strait*, of which  
 “ last Strait your Opinion is desired, whether it  
 “ has not been much widened in his Draught, to  
 “ what it is in fact, to give Room for a Flood Tide  
 “ through his frozen Strait ?”

*Ans.* As I was not ashore at *Cape Frigid*, I can say no more concerning the frozen Straits, than what Captain *Middleton*, and the rest that were there told me : But this I know, that there is no such strong Tides run through between the low Beach and *Cape Frigid*, altho' confin'd to such a narrow Passage as what runs in *Wager River*.

#### Q U E R Y XVII.

“ Whether, after owning in Council, that you  
 “ had found strong rapid Tides, broken Lands,  
 “ and deep Inlets and Bays, from Lat. 63°. 20'.  
 “ in your Outward-bound Passage, you did not neglect to try that Part of the *Welcome* in your Return, tho' it was agreed to search it. The Reason why you did not, and whether you was near enough the Shore to discern it to be Main-land or Islands ?”

*Ans.* The Council that was held in *Repulse Bay*, I had not the Opportunity to be present at ; and for any Neglect in trying the Tides in our Return to *Marble Island*, I know that I had no Opportunity to try it, being obliged to crowd all the Sail we could to keep Company with the *Furnace* ; we were seldom near enough the Shore to discern whether it was Main-land or Islands.

#### Q U E R Y XVIII.

“ What Sort of a Boat was it that the Northern  
 “ *Indians* were put into, when turn'd ashore ? The  
 “ Boat

“ Boat being had from your Vessel; was it tight? ”  
“ Did they know how to manage it? Or if they  
“ got to the Main-land, was there not the greatest  
“ Probability of their falling into the Hands of  
“ their most mortal Enemies the *Eskimaux*? ”

*Ans.* The Boat was a very indifferent one; but it was made as tight as the Carpenter could make it. They knew no more how to manage it, than what they had seen in going in the Boat in *Wager* River. The *Eskimaux* undoubtedly are very numerous there.

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