

A P P E N D I X.

moment may be seized to acquire a competent knowledge of this part of the coast, as will either determine us in future to give up this Southern portion of the continent, as unproductive of mercantile advantages, or seek the sea-otter in these parts. It becomes a question, where did the Spaniards procure these skins? And this point I hope you will be able to clear up, so as, next year, to enable us to take advantage of any discovery you may make. I ever meant, at some future period, to trace this part of the coast. The necessity, however, of my immediately proceeding to China, will prevent any expedition of this kind on my part; and your having the North West America to assist you, will, I trust, enable you to perform it effectually, should you determine to spend the month of October on the coast:—But I leave this point to be determined by your own judgment and concurrent circumstances.

The knowledge we have now obtained of the coast of America, and of the periodical winds and seasons, gives us an advantage over all competitors. The years 1790 and 1791 bid fair to be the most productive that we may ever meet with. Having these flattering prospects before us, our exertions must be redoubled, effectually to sweep the coast before any vessel can arrive from England. In order to accomplish this, you will leave the Sandwich Islands as early as possible in the year 1789; and, at the same time, for fear of accidents, or separation, give your orders to Mr. Funter, that he may proceed, and put his part of the plan of operations into execution.

The Northern district of the continent, I leave to you and the America; the Southern station I shall occupy myself, from China; and I am not without hopes, that by the first of May, 1789, I shall reach the coast. I then shall proceed as circumstances arise:—but let me range which way I will to the Southward, I shall not attempt to go to the Northward of Nootka. On your part, I have no doubt of your arrival on the coast of America some time about the first of April, 1789. By this time the monsoon will be set in, which, experience has taught us, blows close home to the American shore. Therefore, to embrace the advantages which the monsoon offers, instead of going immediately to Prince William's Sound, as others have done, I recommend you to make the coast to the Southward: and as you have the credit of discovering the Great Island, the North-west side of which, comprehending nearly four degrees of latitude, is entirely undiscovered; I therefore recommend your making Cape Saint James, the Southern extremity of the Great Island, as the first point on the continent of America.

Should you find yourself retarded by the North West America's being a bad sailer, you will proceed singly to the coast, leaving her to follow at leisure, to put into execution your instructions; but this being a very unlikely circumstance, as you will probably find her