

1764 *, made repeated trials for a navigable passage from Archangel, by the North of Siberia, into the Pacific Ocean, and with as little success.

All further attempts for a shorter passage to the East were now dropt; for as sufficient had been done to satisfy those whose object had been commerce, such enterprises as took their rise merely from a strong desire of gain were at an end; but a new spirit of discovery has of late years prevailed, which, owing its rise to other motives, was conducted upon other principles, such as were grounded upon a desire to encrease and improve science by extending our Knowledge of the Globe.

It is unnecessary for me to say any thing concerning the two former Voyages performed by Captain Cooke, as they have been published by authority, and I imagine have given a full and entire satisfaction with respect to the South Seas, and make our knowledge of the globe in that quarter as complete as one could wish. ~~To make it~~ all parts equally perfect, there wanted only a Voyage to explore the Northern Pacific Ocean; an opportunity naturally offered itself, when Omai, a native brought hither from the Society Islands, was to be carried home again; and upon Captain Cooke offering his services the plan of the voyage was enlarged, and made to correspond with his great abilities: he was to endeavour, after landing Omai, to find out the so much sought for passage between the Northern Pacific and Atlantic Ocean, either by the North East or North West; which would naturally lead him to explore the North West coast of America, and North East of Asia, hitherto so very imperfectly known, the distance between America and Asia, as also the seas between them, and whether, in that part of the world, there was any approaching the North Pole.

It is not my business to say how far Captain Cooke has succeeded in satisfying our rational enquiries, in regard to these capital objects, for the account of these things is preparing for the Public; I have only to observe, that it was in the course of that Voyage the following Observations were made.

When His Majesty's pleasure was made known that a Voyage for the above purposes should be undertaken, under the command of Captain Cooke, the Board of Longitude, pursuing the same conduct as in the former Voyages, resolved upon sending proper persons on board the two Ships to make Astronomical and Philosophical Observations.

Captain Cooke, in conjunction with Mr. King, one of his Lieutenants, undertook to comply with their instructions, on board the Resolution, the ship Captain Cooke

* See Cox's Account of the Russian Discoveries.

commanded;