

1st January,
17th March, 1789.

THE *Discovery* of a *NW Passage*, has been a favourite Object of Pursuit, from the remotest period of our Navigation; but the early idea of such a *Passage* has been much misconceived, for it did not mean what has been in modern Times understood by the *NW Passage*.

The idea, when that *Passage* was first attempted by the English, was to reach the *Coast* of *Catsya*, or *Tartary* by sailing to the Northward of *AMERICA*; This appears clearly by the *Map*, belonging to Sir *Humphrey Gilbert's* Discourse, written in 1566, printed 1576; and to the *Voyages* of *Frobisher*, published in 1578: The last having found an *Opening* on the *East* of *Groenland*, named it *Frobisher's Strait*, supposing it led *Westward* to the *Head* of the *Strait* of *Anian*, and thence *Southward* to *Japan*. A very short *Track*, indeed, from this Country, if The Sea had been navigable.

This Fact being incontestible, “ that by the *Strait* of *Anian* “ was then meant, The *Strait*, at the *East Extremity* of “ *Asia*, now called *Bbering's Strait*,” Every antecedent *Report* of any *Voyage* having been made by a *NW Passage*, must have a reference to the *alleged Passage*, on the *North* of *AMERICA*, by what may be called the *Hyperborean Sea*: and not to what is now meant by a *NW Passage*, *through AMERICA*.

B

Altho'