

of artillery and stores; but were disappointed in the powder, which they most wanted, through the providence

1776.

who had just got the command of a vessel at North Carolina, then bound from that port to London. In this passage, there arose some altercation between the master and mate, in consequence of a quondam mistress belonging to the latter, who was then aboard.

About this time the war with Spain raged with great violence, and men were greatly wanted for the navy; the press-gangs, and sloops upon the impress service swarmed every where, and the usual protections were of no avail. His captain, through pique, took this opportunity of parting with him; for being boarded by a man of war near the coast of Carolina, Hopkins with some of the common hands were impressed, and it proved useless to him to plead his protection as then chief mate, his captain telling the lieutenant, that he had been in such a station, but was then broke for mutinous behaviour, and therefore desired Hopkins to be sent aboard particularly, giving a charge to the lieutenant to have a strict eye over him, he being, as he said, of a desperate disposition.

This ship of war shortly after joined Admiral Vernon's fleet, where Hopkins was put on board the Burford, the flag ship. In this new station, he endeavoured to still his resentment to his late captain, and to conform himself to his present birth; in which he succeeded so well, that in a little time, he was observed not only to be an expert seaman, and able navigator, but of a quite contrary disposition to what he had been represented; and at the attack on Portobello, which soon followed, he gave an admirable specimen of his courage and conduct, all which being made known to his Admiral, our hero was ordered to walk the quarter-deck, and on his arrival in England, got to be rated as master's mate on board his Majesty's store ship, Prince Royal, capt. Edward Barber; and in the year 1747, having passed his examination at the Trinity House, he was appointed master of the Weazel sloop, in which station he continued till the peace.

In the year 1749 he returned home, just time enough to close his father's eyes, who divided his fortune equally between him and his step-brother, (a Mr. Whipple, who had proved a worthy and deserving young man). Mr. Hopkins then made his chief residence in America, and bought a vessel in which he traded to London, till the war broke out in the year 1755, when he again