

The following pages are principally intended to exhibit the enlarged and benevolent object of the "London Missionary Society," whose motives were, to establish missionary settlements on the numerous groups of islands in the Pacific ocean; to disseminate the gospel of Christ among "those that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;" and to introduce useful learning, and the arts and sciences; the preparation of the ship, her arrival at Otaheite, and the subsequent pursuits and disasters of the Missionaries; and the peculiar dispensations of Divine Providence, which the writer, and several individuals of the mission experienced.

The increasing intercourse of Europeans and Americans, with this remote part of the globe, has excited much desire of obtaining correct information concerning a people who have attracted such a share of attention and inquiry: it is therefore also intended to describe some of the peculiar customs and manners of the islanders, together with the situations, nature, and productions of this delightful part of the world.

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