

P R E F A C E.

while there remains an authentic account of his three respective VOYAGES, and as long as Mariners and Geographers shall trace the various courses and discoveries he has made.

Among other advantages which must result from the undertakings of this unparalleled Commander, it is probable that these VOYAGES may be the means of spreading, in time, the blessings of civilization amongst the numerous tribes of the South Pacific Ocean, of abolishing their horrid repasts, and their equally horrid rites; and of laying a foundation for future and more effectual plans, to prepare them for holding an honourable station amongst the nations of the earth. Other discoveries of new countries have, in general, been with wars, or rather massacres. Nations have no sooner been found out, than they have been extirpated; and the horrid cruelties of the conquerors of Mexico and Peru, can never be remembered without blushing for religion and human nature. But when the recesses of the Globe are investigated, not to enlarge private dominion, but to promote general knowledge; when we visit new tribes of our fellow-creatures as friends, and wish only to learn that they exist, in order to bring them within the pale of the offices of humanity, and to relieve the wants of their imperfect state of society, by communicating to them our superior attainments. VOYAGES of such discovery, planned with such benevolent views by GEORGE THE THIRD, and executed by Capt. Cook, have not, we trust, totally failed in this respect. The natives of the South Pacific Ocean comparing themselves with their visitors, cannot but be struck with the deepest conviction of their own inferiority, and be impelled by the strongest motives to strive to emerge from it, and rise nearer to a level with those Britons, who deigned to look upon them, and left behind so many specimens of their generous and humane attention. The very introduction of our useful animals and vegetables, by adding fresh means of subsistence, will have added to their comforts and enjoyments of life.

