

P R E F A C E.

MY only object in combining the reminiscences and memoranda of my first voyage as shipmaster into a connected narrative, is to leave some slight record of that voyage in my family. Although I am not one of those who regard everything beyond the smoke of their own chimneys as marvellous, I think my expedition to the Northwest Coast was made a little remarkable from the circumstance that I met at Norfolk Sound his Excellency Baron von Resanoff, to whom I sold my vessel, and then crossed the North Pacific in a little craft of twenty-five tons burden, and after an overland journey of fifty-five hundred miles returned home by the way of St Petersburg. This was a voyage and travels more than half a century ago, and I was probably the first American who passed through Siberia. I know that others have claimed to be the first, and have published descriptions of the country ; but I had gone over the same route before any of these claimants