

C O N T E N T S.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

B O O K I.

***P**ROGRESS of navigation among the ancients—View of their discoveries as preparatory to those of the moderns—Imperfection of ancient navigation and geography—Doctrine of the Zones—Farther discoveries checked by the irruption of barbarous nations—Geographical knowledge still preserved in the East, and among the Arabians—Revival of commerce and navigation in Europe—favoured by the Croisades—extended by travellers into the East—promoted by the invention of the mariner's compass—First regular plan of discovery formed by Portugal—State of that kingdom—Schemes of Prince Henry—Early attempts feeble—Progress along the western coast of Africa—Hopes of discovering a new route to the East Indies—Attempts to accomplish this—Prospects of success.*

B O O K II.

Birth and education of Columbus—acquires naval skill in the service of Portugal—conceives hopes of reaching the East Indies