

reasons : 1st, His brave crew were in good health and spirits, and his ships in good condition ; and he would, by a Northerly passage to England, instead of the ordinary course round the Cape of Good Hope, shorten his voyage 10,000 sea miles. 2dly, He would acquire the parliamentary reward of 20,000*l.* a very great inducement, and an object worthy of some extraordinary risk. I always thought, however, that, if Capt. Cook meant the discovery of the North-East passage when he sailed from England, the most judicious course would have been to have sailed directly from the Thames Northwards, and to have made the North-East passage the *beginning*, instead of the *end*, of his voyage.

The Straits which lie between the land of the Tchuktshi and the island of Alaschka, and the other passage which lies