

described in this volume, that the change is astonishing when it is considered in how short a period it has been effected.

The present work then refers to a much more important subject than was the case with the preceding edition; and, with its increase of interest, the improved knowledge of its hydrography will be found to have kept pace. As is stated in the introduction to the *South Pacific Directory*, this edition is differently arranged to the first. In that, the first part referred to the coasts, the second to the islands of the Pacific Ocean. These later editions separate the oceans by the equator, and each volume describes the area North or South of it, and is thus complete in itself, although supplementary to each other.

It is scarcely necessary to recount the steps which have been made in our knowledge of the Pacific and its coasts. Up to a very recent time the recital of each voyage was a tale of discovery and adventure. Many of them are familiar household stories. Captain *Cook's* voyage is scarcely forgotten as a narrative; yet not a century since he commenced the real work of correctly describing the Pacific. The voyages and surveys of *Vancouver*, 1791 to 1794, are still the best authority for the coasts of Alaska and British Columbia. At the same period the Spaniards had sent the well known commanders *Gonzalez* and *Valdez*, and also the unfortunate *Malaspina*, and his companion *Bustamente*; these are deserving of all good mention. They examined much of the Western coast of America.

Admiral *Krusenstern*, the hydrographer of the Pacific, follows next in order, and he first gave a correct notion of Japan, Okhotsk, and the adjacent parts of Asia (in 1803—1806); and, most important of all, has left an invaluable and noble work on the Pacific (1824, 1827), to which very many of the subsequent pages are indebted.

To another Russian officer, Captain *Frédéric Lutke*, we still are almost solely indebted for what we know of the inclement Sea of Behring, and of much of the Caroline Archipelago. A third, *Otto Von Kotzebue*, was sent by the Russian Government to the North Pacific in 1815—1818, and surveyed the Marshall Islands and other parts.

Of our own countrymen, in later times, the late Admiral *Frederic William Beechey*, stands prominent. His voyage in the *Blossom*, 1826—1828, is in a