

to the several adventurers in search of a N.W. passage to China, &c. which project began to be much in agitation in the sixteenth century. Forbisher, Gilbert, Davis, Hudson, Button, Baffin, Munk, Fox, James, Middleton, and, lastly, Moor, have successively embarked in the perilous undertaking,—but in vain; amongst whom, however, he that seems to have made the greatest progress was Hudson, in a voyage performed in the year 1610\*. For that vigorous exertion to serve his country, he deserved a better fate than befel him; of which the present subject leads to a brief recital.

This skilful and determined navigator first entered the straits and bay which to this day bear his name, and explored a great part of the coast; but, though hitherto unsuccessful in seeking the desired passage, he was not hopeless, nor dismayed by the many difficulties he had met with, and determined to persevere in his endeavours the next year. With this view he wintered (it is said) in the latitude of 52 deg. N. which is beyond comparison more rigid in those parts

\* Mr. Hudson had before made three voyages to the N. on discovery, in one of which he penetrated into the latitude of 80½ deg,

than