

P R E F A C E.

tempts for the finding a north west passage, have been only in other words, finding a new rout to the coasts of California, which if we are ever happy enough to find, will open to us a short way, as well to a new Indies as to the old. Now the surest means of making such a discovery effectually, is by proceeding from the known to the unknown; and therefore the first plain, proper, and natural step, is to attain a clear and exact account of California, so far as it is discovered, which we could only hope from the Spaniards, and which this author has given us in the fullest, plainest, and most accurate method that we could possibly desire. This is the sole object, this is the true merit of the book, which though not a work of amusement and entertainment, is full of instruction and information, and in that light, no doubt, will be a most acceptable present to the publick, as will sufficiently appear, if we consider the plan of this writer's performance.

He divides his treatise into four parts. In the first, he discourses of the name, situation, and extent of California, that is, taking it in the strict sense, for so much
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