

The P R E F A C E.

THE great Utility and very interesting Nature of the important FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD VOYAGES and DISCOVERIES of the late Capt. Cook, are acknowledged by all Ranks of People; consequently it might be deemed impertinent here to attempt any Encomiums on the arduous but exact Researches of this eminent and valuable Navigator, in which Discoveries have been made far greater than those of all the other Navigators in the World, from the Expedition of Columbus to the present Time. Capt. Cook is unquestionably allowed to have been the ablest and most renowned Circumnavigator this or any other Country has produced, and every enlightened Nation must deplore his being unfortunately killed by the Savages of the Island Owhyhee on the 14th of February 1779, when prosecuting his THIRD VOYAGE round the Globe.

This great Man possessed, in an eminent Degree, all the Qualifications requisite for his Profession and great Undertakings. He was cool and deliberate in judging; sagacious in determining; active in executing; steady and persevering in Enterprizes; vigilant, with unremitting Caution; unsubdued by Labour, Difficulties, and Disappointments; fertile in Expedients; never wanting Presence of Mind; always possessing himself of the full Use of a sound Understanding; mild, just, but exact in Discipline. His Knowledge, his Experience, his Sagacity, rendered him to intirely Master of his Subject, that the greatest Obstacles were surmounted, and the most dangerous Navigations became easy, and almost safe, under his Direction. He explored the Southern Hemisphere, &c. to a much higher Latitude than had ever been reached, and with fewer Accidents than frequently befall those who navigate the Coasts of Great Britain. By his Attention to the Welfare of his Ship's Company, he discovered and introduced a System for the Preservation of the Health of Seamen in long Voyages, which has proved wonderfully efficacious: for in his SECOND VOYAGE round the World, which continued upwards of Three years, he lost only one Man by Dilemper, of One Hundred and Eighteen Persons, of whom his Company consisted.

The Death of this valuable Man was a Loss to Mankind in general; and particularly to be deplored by every Nation that respects useful Accomplishments, and honours Science. It is still more to be deplored by this Country, which may justly boast of having produced a Man hitherto unequalled for nautical Talents; and that Sorrow is farther aggravated by the Reflection, that his Country was deprived of this Ornament by the Enmity of a People, from whom it might have been dreaded, but from whom it was not deserved: for, Capt. Cook frequently interposed, at the Hazard of his Life, to protect these very People from the sudden Resentment of his own injured Ship's Crew. Let us contemplate, admire, revere, and emulate, this great Navigator; whose Skill and Labours have enlarged natural Philosophy; have extended nautical Science; and have disclosed the long concealed and admirable Arrangements of the Almighty in the Formation of this Globe, and at the same Time the Arrogance of Mortals, in presuming to account, by their Speculations, for the Laws by which he was pleased to create it. It is now discovered, beyond all doubt, that the same Great Being who created the Universe by his Fiat, by the same ordained our Earth to keep a just Poise, without a corresponding Southern Continent. The arduous and accurate Researches of this extraordinary Man have discovered Seas un-navigated and unknown before. They have made us acquainted with Islands, People, and Productions, of which we had no Conception: and he will be revered, while there remains an authentic Account of his Three respective Voyages, and as long as Mariners and Geographers shall trace the various Courses and Discoveries he has made.

Among other Advantages which must result from the Undertakings of this unparalleled Commander, it is probable that these Voyages may be the Means of spreading, in Time, the Blessings of Civilization amongst the numerous Tribes of the South Pacific Ocean, of abolishing their horrid Repalls, and their equally horrid Rites; and of laying a Foundation for future and more effectual Plans, to prepare them for holding an honourable Station amongst the Nations of the Earth. Other Discoveries of new Countries have, in general, been Wars, or rather Massacres. Nations have no sooner been found out, than they have been extirpated; and the horrid Cruelties of the Conquerors of Mexico and Peru, can never be remembered without blushing for Religion, and human Nature. But when the Recesses of the Globe are investigated, not to enlarge private Dominion, but to promote general Knowledge; when we visit new Tribes of our Fellow Creatures as Friends, and wish only to learn that they exist, in order to bring them within the Pale of the Offices of Humanity, and to relieve the Wants of their imperfect State of Society, by communicating to them our superior Attainments; Voyages of such Discovery, planned with such benevolent Views by GEORGE THE THIRD, and executed by COOK, have not, we trust, totally failed in this Respect. The Natives of the South Pacific Ocean comparing themselves with their Visitors, cannot but be struck with the deepest Conviction of their own Inferiority, and be impelled by the strongest Motives, to strive to emerge from it, and rise nearer to a Level with those Britons, who deigned to look upon them, and left behind so many Specimens of their generous and humane Attention. The very Introduction of our useful Animals and Vegetables, by adding fresh Means of Subsistence, will have added to their Comforts and Enjoyments of Life.

The Public Curiosity being excited to the highest Degree respecting Capt. Cook's Voyages, (particularly his Third and Last Expedition to the PACIFIC OCEAN) it is necessary to caution the Public against the Impoliteness of all mutilated, imperfect, and Spurious Editions, Abridgements, and Compendiums of these Works; such Publications not being calculated to convey to the Reader that Satisfaction so naturally expected. The Work now respectfully offered to the Public, will contain the Whole of Capt. Cook's Voyages Complete, with all the fine splendid Folio Copper-plates. It is unnecessary to point out the obvious Imperfections of all Publications which include only a single Voyage of the very celebrated Capt. Cook; his Three different Voyages are so immediately connected together, that owing to frequent References from one to another, no Person can form a satisfactory Idea of his valuable Discoveries, who does not read his First, Second, and Third Voyages in the order in which they were performed and written. In the present very complete, improved and genuine Edition (for which numerous Readers have been waiting with Impatience) we therefore consider it as our indispensable Duty to begin with a full Account of his First Voyage round the World; after which we shall record an authentic History of his Second Voyage; and then immediately proceed to a faithful and accurate Relation of his much admired Third and last Voyage round the Globe, being that principally undertaken for new Discoveries in the Pacific Ocean, &c. &c. and in the Prosecution of which he unfortunately lost his Life.

This Work will be illustrated with (besides the curious and interesting Cuts for his FIRST and SECOND VOYAGES, &c.) all the elegant, splendid, and fine LARGE FOLIO COPPER-PLATES, belonging to his THIRD and LAST VOYAGE, being Views of Places, Portraits of Persons, and historical Representations of remarkable Incidents during this celebrated Navigator's VOYAGE to the PACIFIC OCEAN; together with the necessary Maps, Charts, Plans, Draughts, &c. shewing the Tracks of the Ships, and relating to Countries now first discovered, or hitherto but imperfectly known; the Whole (amounting to upwards of TWO HUNDRED and TWENTY most ELEGANT and SUPERB ENGRAVINGS) finely engraved and accurately copied from the Originals by the most eminent Masters. Some other Editions of these Works, unnecessarily extended