

“ we were informed that it is very narrow, shallow, and only to be navigated through with boats, or very small vessels *.”

The existence of this strait, which Cook has adopted in his chart, from Ismailof's observations, might likewise have been collected from Krenitzin's chart, and the several journals in my Account of the Russian Discoveries, wherein Unimak or Oone-mak is shewn to be an island separated from Alaxa, since proved to be the continent of America, by a narrow strait.

It must not be thought surprising, that a collection of voyages, performed by ignorant traders merely for the sake of obtaining furs, and not with a view of discovery, should be defective in determining the position and number of so many islands. We ought rather to wonder that the descriptions, in general, are tolerably accurate, and afford that degree of information which they are found to contain. Nor must it be forgotten that Beering's and Krenitzin's expedition, which alone were undertaken by Imperial authority, reflect considerable honour on the Russian name.

The particulars, which remain to be ascertained with respect to the new-discovered islands, are, to remove the uncertainty arising from the confusion of names, to determine the true number, and to fix the longitude and latitude. And when it is considered that the sea, unexplored by Cook, includes a space of at least ten degrees of latitude, and twenty of longitude, much, in this instance, remains to be effected by the labours of future adventurers.

These are the principal objects of examination on the coasts of Asia and America, and in respect to the new-discovered islands. In order to forward these great ends, the Empress of Russia,

* Vol. II. p. 505.