

In Dabrymple Watcombe.

P R E F A C E.

ABOVE two years ago I printed a few copies of a tract on *The Discoveries made in the South Pacific Ocean*; which, however, I did not publish till lately, when it was reported that the French had discovered the continent.

My plan originally was to publish the work in two parts:

Part I. An Historical Collection of the several Voyages to the SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, in a chronological series.

Part II. Sect. 1. Geographical Description of the places hitherto discovered between AMERICA and PAPUA, on the south of the equator, comprehending,

1. Description of the country and anchorage.
2. Complexion, dress, and manners of the Indians.
3. Signs of friendship amongst them.
4. Habitations.
5. Embarkations.
6. Arms.
7. Manufactures, arts, and commerce.
8. Provisions and refreshments.

Sect. 2. Examination into the conduct of the discoverers in the tracts they pursued.

And having thus recapitulated every thing that had been done—

Sect. 3. Investigation of what may be farther expected in this quarter from the analogy of nature, as well as from the deduction of past discoveries.

Sect. 4.