

# TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

v

In the narrative of a voyage not undertaken professedly with the view of making new discoveries, our curiosity is less strongly excited than in one where discovery is the primary object. Yet the voyage of Captain Krusenstern is not deficient even in this respect. His account of Nukahiwa, and its fine race of inhabitants, is by no means uninteresting, and confirms, in most respects, that given of them by his predecessors: his naming it one of the "Washington Islands," because first discovered by the master of an American vessel, is, perhaps, objectionable, as Nukahiwa is just as much one of the group long known as the Marquesas, as Corvo is one of the Azores or Western islands. Here he met with an English sailor of the name of Roberts, who had received the king's sister in marriage, and who found himself so comfortably situated among the islanders, that Captain Krusenstern could not prevail on him to leave them.\*

---

\* He has however since left them, as appears by the following letter, addressed to Mr. Hare, and dated at Calcutta, December 11th, 1811:

TO JAMES HARE, Esq.

SIR,

I BEG leave to state to you the outlines of my narrative, viz.—In November, 1797, I sailed from London, bound round Cape Horn; stopped at Spithead till early in January, 1798, at which period and in three weeks we reached the island of St. Jago; stopped a few days, and proceeded to Rio de Janeiro, at which place we stopped about twelve or fourteen days; we then proceeded on our voyage towards Cape Horn, which we doubled some time in June, 1798.—We were near six months at the Gallapagos isles, when we took our departure along the coast of California, in company with two ships, the Butterworth and Liberty, both of London. In the latitude of 17° N. we experienced a very heavy gale at midnight; the Liberty was never seen after, the Butterworth lost her main-mast. In consequence of this unlooked-for misfortune, we made for the Marquesa isles, situated in 9° 58' S. latitude, and about 158° W.