

## INTRODUCTION.

tries bordering on the *South-Seas*, and as herein I may appear to differ greatly from the opinions generally established, I think it incumbent on me particularly to recite the authorities I have been guided by on this occasion, that I may not be censured, as having given way either to a thoughtless credulity on one hand, or, what would be a much more criminal imputation, to a wilful and deliberate misrepresentation on the other.

Mr. *Anson*, before he set sail upon this expedition, besides the printed journals to those parts, took care to furnish himself with the best manuscript accounts he could procure of all the *Spanish* settlements upon the coasts of *Chili*, *Peru*, and *Mexico*. These he carefully compared with the examinations of his prisoners, and the informations of several intelligent persons, who fell into his hands in the *South-Seas*. He had likewise the good fortune, in some of his captures, to possess himself of a great number of letters and papers of a public nature, many of them written by the Viceroy of *Peru* to the Viceroy of *Santa Fee*, to the Presidents of *Panama* and *Chili*, to Don *Blas de Lezo*, Admiral of the Galeons, and to divers other Persons in public Employments; and in these letters there was usually inserted a recital of those they were intended to answer; so that they contained a considerable part of the correspondence between these officers for some time previous to our arrival on that coast: We took besides many letters sent from persons employed by the Government to their friends and correspondents, which were frequently filled with narrations of public business, and sometimes contained undisguised animadversions on the views and conduct of their Superiors. From these materials those accounts of the *Spanish* affairs are taken, which may at first sight appear the most exceptionable. In particular the history of the various casualties which befel *Pizarro's* squadron, is for the most part composed from intercepted letters: Tho' indeed the relation of the insurrection of *Orellana* and his followers, is founded on rather less disputable authority: For it was taken from the mouth of an *English* gentleman then on board *Pizarro*, who often conversed with *Orellana*; and it was, on enquiry, confirmed in its principal circumstances by others who were in the ship at the same