

1788.

JUNE.

CHAP. X.

Methods employed by the Natives to advance the Price of Sea Otters Skins.—

Their Superiority in arranging their Bargains between us.—Conduct of Comekela,—Made a Chief through our Influence.—His Marriage.—The Magnificence of the Entertainment on the Occasion.—Maquilla and his Chiefs affect our Dress and Manners.—Valuable Present of Maquilla.—A Grindstone stolen.—An human Hand offered for Sale.—Narrow Escape of the Natives on the Occasion.—Melancholy Loss of Part of the Crew of the Imperial Eagle, in 1787.—Suspicion that Maquilla is a Cannibal.—Extraordinary Pillow of Callicum.—The Inhabitants of Friendly Cove remove to a small Distance.—The Reasons and Facility of their Removal.—A young Otter brought for Sale.

IN the interval between our arrival and the fifth of June, a very brisk trade had been carried on for furs, and we had procured upwards of one hundred and forty sea otter skins. On our first arrival we had stipulated a certain price for every different kind of fur, according to its value; but in the whole business of this traffic they availed themselves of every advantage; and it was our interest, from the views of future benefit, to submit to any deviation they attempted to make from their original agreement.

After some little time they changed the whole order of their traffic with us; and instead of common barter, according to the distinct value
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