

appeared his aunt, an old woman of about eighty years of age, and, from her appearance, might have been supposed to have lived in a continual state of filth and dirtiness from her birth to the moment in which we beheld such a disgusting object. She embraced her nephew with great affection, and shed the scalding rheum of her eyes on the cheek of Comekela.

1788.
MAY.

After the first ceremonies of welcome were over, and the first gaze of admiration satisfied, the whole company proceeded to the king's house, into which persons of rank were alone permitted to enter, and where a magnificent feast of whale blubber and oil was prepared: the whole company sat down with an appetite well suited to the luxuries of the banquet: even the little children drank the oil with all the appearance of extreme gratification; but Comekela's taste seemed to have been in some degree vitiated by the Indian and European cookery, and he did not enjoy his native delicacies with the same voracious gluttony as if his stomach had never known the variety of other food than that of Nootka. The evening was passed in great rejoicing; their songs and dancing continued during the greatest part of the night. We returned on board early in the evening; but we heard for a long time after the sound of their festivity.

Nootka is situated on a rising bank, which fronts the sea, and is backed and skirted with woods*. In Friendly Cove the houses are large, and in the common fashion of the country. Each of these mansions accommodates several families, and is divided into partitions, in the

* A particular account of the village or town of Nootka, is reserved for that part of this volume which will treat at large of the commerce, geography, &c. of the North West Coast of America.