

deemed imperfect, what advantages can be derived from their publication?

To this it may be replied, that considerable information may be obtained even from imperfect accounts, and that many points have, in effect, been ascertained, as the reader has already perceived in this Comparative View. We find even Cook himself anxious to procure intelligence from a Russian named Ismailof, from whom he received a chart of the Russian Discoveries. This chart, however, was not founded on the observations of a single navigator, but seems to have been a compilation from different charts and journals, and, consequently, extremely erroneous.

Nor does it appear that Ismailof either possessed, or had seen, Krenitzin's chart of the Fox Islands, which, according to the observations of the English, is proved to be the most accurate representation of the Fox Islands given by the Russians. The correction of this erroneous chart from Ismailof's own experience, and additional remarks, must have been still doubtful. For, as Captain Cook could not speak the Russian language, and as he had no Russian interpreter on board, the imperfect knowledge of this illiterate man was rendered still more imperfect by the only mode of communication they could adopt, that of conversing by signs.

And yet, under all these disadvantages, Cook gained some information relative to the position and number of the islands which he had not explored; an information which he has thought worthy to be laid before the public.

He particularly informs us, that "a passage was marked in Ismailof's chart, communicating with Bristol Bay, which covers about fifteen leagues on the coast, that I had supposed to belong to the continent, into an island distinguished by the name of Oonemak. This passage might easily escape us, as