

June 15, 1796.
carefully examined the
work, and it is my duty to
state that it is a valuable publica-

YEATON.

May 8, 1798
"American Coast Pilot"
and recommend the
work to all concerned
in maritime affairs, as
the most valuable publica-

THORLO.

June 1796.
request of the Pro-
cessed the same, and
all Mariners.
ASKINS.
KER.

his, Nov. 1796.
Pilot for the Dela-
ware, sailing in by Cape-
to the city of Phila-
delphia, the work very
ILLINGER.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

OF THE

American Coast Pilot,

OF the many improvements, which the science of Navigation has been continually receiving in the lapse of many centuries since the invention of the Compass, perhaps there is no one, which in its ordinary operation on maritime affairs, embraces a greater scope of practical utility, than the accurate description of the marine boundaries of countries by which the adventurous mariner may recognize his coast at a distance; the soundings and course of channels, by the knowledge of which he sets the rock-bound shore at defiance; and the aspect and properties of harbors, into which he can enter with security, and embay himself from the inclemency of the elements. This remark is suggested with the more confidence, as it results from the consideration that the life even of the most skilful and experienced mariner, is more endangered as he approaches the coast, however correctly he may be acquainted with its soundings and its curvatures, than it is, when exposed to the billows of the tempest, which agitates the mid-ocean. The important aid which the learned navigator derives from the calculation of the longitude by lunar observation, is undoubtedly among the most distinguished benefits of modern nautical improvement; and it is a branch of naval education, with which the mariners of our country, have of late years become generally familiar. When the spirit of adventure had extended the American commerce beyond the capes of either continent, what was before useful, became then