



*Short Account of some Voyages made by order of the King of Spain, to discover the State of the West American Coast from California upward. Dated Madrid, 24 March, 1776.*

THE spirited attempts made in compliance with his Catholic Majesty's commands arising from the laudable intention of spreading the knowledge of the Gospel to the utmost bounds of his extensive empire, especially those directed to the remote parts of the Continent North of California, where the inhabitants are still supposed immersed in the darkness of Paganism; and the steady endeavours for a happy event, having in some measure been attended with success, in two expeditions made in the years 1769 and 1770, one by land, the other by sea; the harbour of *Monterey* having been discovered in latit.  $36^{\circ}. 40'$ . and a Court of Presidency, with a missionary delegation, being established there, under the patronage of *St. Charles*: His Majesty in pursuance of the pious design, ordered a second expedition thither in 1774, with the frigate *Santjago*, commanded by *Don Juan Perez*, who explored that coast up to  $55^{\circ}. 49'$ . latit. and landing there found a civilised people, well-looking, and accustomed to wear clothes. The fortunate event of that voyage has farther induced his