

infant state of the design ; particularly if the north-east winds have driven the ice towards the shores of Cumberland Isle. At future periods experience will point out the actual situation of the ice in the latter season, of which a regular record should be deposited in the care of the Royal Society, as it may hereafter be found of the greatest benefit when those seas become frequented by trading vessels.

It would not at the first attempt be adviseable to search the coasts to the southward, with intent to find a passage towards Cook's River, the northern termination of which is still unknown. The expedition directed immediately to the westward towards Behring's Strait may more effectually accomplish its objects, and will probably have to compliment the Russian expedition, under Kotzebue, long before it will have doubled the Prince of Wales's Cape.

What a prospect lies before the mind after the British expedition has passed Behring's Strait ! The vast expanse of the northern Pacific spread boundless to the view, with a surface almost trackless, containing numerous islands not hitherto discovered, whose inhabitants will receive the advantages of European commerce, and British constitutional laws ! The produce of those islands will hereafter amply reward the trouble of research, discoveries new to science and of value to more civilized society being unfolded, the history of the earth, and a knowledge of its