

solution and Adventure, for making discoveries towards the South Pole, and round the world. The third and last, in the Resolution and Discovery, to the Pacific Ocean, but, principally, to determine the position and extent of the west side of North America; its distance from Asia; and the practicability of a north-west passage into the Atlantic, and to Europe. To follow the exact researches of this eminent navigator, whose discoveries have far exceeded those of all his predecessors; has been our arduous task. It is unnecessary to point out the obvious imperfections of all publications which include only a single voyage of this celebrated Commander; his three different voyages are so immediately connected together, that owing to frequent references from one to another, no person can form a satisfactory idea of his valuable discoveries, who does not read his first, second, and third voyages, in the order in which they were performed and written. For these reasons we thought it our indispensable duty to give an accurate relation, and to record an authentic history of the whole of Captain Cook's voyages, to which we have added genuine and complete narratives of other remarkable voyages round the world, undertaken and performed by English circumnavigators, under the sanction of government. And with a view of rendering this work in every respect conformable to our proposals, we have incorporated a faithful relation of the substance of all the most remarkable and important Travels and Journeys, which have been undertaken, at different times, to the four quarters of the world; particularly, besides what we have already mentioned, those of Burnet, Addison, Barotti, Keyser, Thicknes, Twiss, Bridone, Chandler, Janson, Smollet, Moore, Wraxall, &c.

In the geographical part of Captain Cook's voyages, we have availed ourselves of the labours, and made a free use of the discoveries of those eminent writers, as may plainly be seen in our descriptions of the several islands in the Atlantic, Southern, Pacific, and Indian seas; containing an historical relation, not to be found in any publication of the like kind. A thorough knowledge of the islands and harbours, where ships may safely repair for refreshments, and other purposes, is of the utmost consequence to navigators in their pursuit of discoveries; and geography has a peculiar claim to the attention of mankind in general, seeing this useful science

displays to our view, in the most entertaining manner, a general knowledge of the world. To promote which, to the observations of former travellers, noticed above, we have added very recent discoveries made by those celebrated circumnavigators, whose entertaining and useful voyages employ part of this work, viz. Byron, Wallis, Carteret, Mulgrave, Anson, &c.

In the astronomical and nautical parts of this work, we have not tired the patience of our readers, with useless computations, trifling suppositions, and dry sets of solar and lunar observation; yet we have not failed, in any one instance, to give the result of these; and we have likewise accurately marked latitude, longitude, dates, time, tides, situation, distance, and bearings, both of places and of the ships. This work may be considered as a kind of universal history; but with respect to the style, we have preserved that of our journals, as those would naturally do, who are not unacquainted with the principles of navigation, and maritime affairs.

As to the historical and descriptive parts of this work of labour, they comprehend a particular, full, accurate, circumstantial, and entertaining account of continents, islands, seas, oceans, straits, rivers, harbours, promontories, bays, &c. &c. together with a useful and diverting descriptive relation of the natives, or inhabitants, their situation, extent, boundaries, limits, soil, natural and artificial curiosities, and productions: their laws, religion, customs, manners, genius, arts, tempers, dispositions, amusements, language, shape, stature, dress, virtues, and vices; their governments, principalities, titles of distinction, and singular ceremonies at births, marriages, and funerals, &c. &c. including also the natural history of birds, beasts, fishes, reptiles, insects, and vegetable productions, found in the hitherto unexplored regions of the world. And among the greatest variety of the most interesting transactions, we have given a faithful narrative of the extraordinary life and unfortunate death of that brave Commander, Captain Cook; in which, as also in our account of Captain Clerke's death, our readers will find several particulars never before made known to the public. Of that public, and our friendly subscribers, we now take leave, with the pleasing hopes, that they will maturely consider the above remarks, bring them to the test of truth, and give merit the preference upon every occasion.

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N. B. In writing the Histories of the above very valuable and celebrated Voyages round the World, &c. the Editor has not only carefully incorporated all the important Discoveries made by other Voyagers and Circumnavigators, but has also included the Substance of the most remarkable Travels to different Parts of the World.

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