

I should have enlarged my observations, and been more minutely attentive to a variety of objects which were but cursorily remarked; and qualified myself, during every part of my Voyages, to have given them all the interest they were capable of receiving, and all the information they were capable of producing. But without endeavouring to deprecate criticism by an affected humility, or defying it by an unbecoming confidence, I shall venture to express my hopes,—that this Volume will be found to contain information useful to commerce, and instructions which future navigators may not disdain to consider; that the following pages will afford some entertainment to men who are curious in examining the various modes of human life; and that there are many passages in them which will heighten the feelings of those who “sit and think on what a sailor suffers.”

The Memoir on the China Trade, &c. must speak for itself:—The Observations I have ventured to make on the possibility of a North West Passage, must also be submitted to the candid consideration of investigating minds.—It is, however, proper to add, that in supporting my opinion on that subject, I have had occasional recourse to the corroborating arguments of Mr. Dalrymple, in his admirable pamphlet on the Fur Trade, &c.

That every possible attention has been employed to render this Work, in some degree, worthy of the public favour, will, I trust, appear