

ed, before such an arduous and important undertaking could have been accomplished !

But it is impossible to place this subject in a more striking point of view than by introducing the very ingenious reflections on the present perfection of navigation from Foster's *History of Voyages and Discoveries made in the North*.

"Of all the arts and professions," says that writer, "which have at any time attracted my notice, none has ever appeared to me more astonishing and marvellous than that of navigation, in the state in which it is at present. This art affords one of the most certain and irrefragable proofs of the amazing powers of the human understanding. This cannot be made more evident, than when, taking a retrospective view of the tottering, inartificial craft, to which navigation owes its origin, we compare it with a noble and majestic edifice, containing a thousand men, together with their provisions, drink, furniture, and other necessaries, for many months, besides one hundred pieces of heavy ordnance ; and bearing all this vast apparatus safely, and as it were on the wings of the wind, across immense seas to the most distant shores. The following example may serve to delineate at full length, as it were, the preceding idea.

"But it may first be necessary to premise, that a huge unwieldy log of wood, with the greatest difficulty and in the most uncouth manner hollowed out in the inside, and somewhat pointed at both ends, and thus floated on a river, for the purpose of transporting two or three persons belonging to one and the same family across a piece of water a few feet deep, by the assistance of a pole pushed against the ground, cannot with propriety be considered as the image of navigation in its first and earliest stage. The canoe, however, is a specimen of the art in a more advanced state, as this kind of craft is capable of having direction given to it, and even of such a capital improvement as the addition of a sail.