

sailors not attending to this, so many accidents happened. The prudent navigator must remember to enter the channel when he sees the town of Balise to the north-west.

The King of Spain maintains at Balise a garrison of twenty men, principally designed for the service of the custom-house, an officer belonging to which goes on board every ship entering or departing. There are also twenty men under the order of the pilot-major, paid and kept as soldiers: they may, however, quit their employ at pleasure, provided that their services are not immediately required, and that they owe nothing. This last condition generally fixes them for many years: the pilot-major taking care to keep them always dependant, by supplying them with spirits, of which they consume large quantities.

CHAP. XXI.

LIFE OF GEORGE AUGUSTUS BOWLES.

AMERICA, although populous for many years, has produced very few men whose names are deserving of being transmitted to posterity; Franklin and Washington are perhaps the only ones to whom it can boast of having given birth. I hope for pardon in relating the life of one, who, by the originality of his character, the extent of his knowledge, the vast projects he has conceived, and those that he has executed, merits particular attention.

George Augustus Bowles was born in Maryland, one of the United States; his father, an Englishman by birth, had amassed a considerable property, and enjoyed the esteem of his fellow-citizens, among whom he had an honourable rank. When the war broke out in 1775 between England and the United States, Bowles, though yet a boy, ran after the adventures of a military life, for which nature seemed to have designed him. It would be difficult to alledge the reasons that determined him to prefer the English party to that of his native country. It is probable that the elegance and good discipline of the English regiments, alone determined his choice. At the age of thirteen he offered himself a volunteer to an English regiment of infantry, and was admitted. After a year's service he was received among the Loyalists of Maryland, commanded by Colonel James Chalmers, a man distinguished for his great talents, his fortune, and attachment to the mother country.

Having embarked in 1777 with his regiment, in which he had obtained the rank of an officer, he arrived at Pensacola in Florida, where, on account of negligence, he was deprived of his commission. Far from feeling uneasiness, he supported his

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