

In the spring, 1750, Mr. Cook shipped himself as a seaman on board the *Maria*, under the command of Captain Gaskin. In her he continued all that year in the Baltic trade.

In 1753, he entered on board His Majesty's ship *Eagle*; "having a mind," as he expressed himself, "to try his fortune that way." Some time after, the *Eagle* sailed with another frigate on a cruise, in which they were very successful.

He received a commission as Lieutenant, on the first day of April, 1760; and soon after gave a specimen of those abilities, which recommended him to the commands which he executed so highly to his credit, that his name will go down to posterity, as one of the most skilful navigators which this country hath produced.

In the year 1765, he was with Sir William Burnaby, on the Jamaica station; and behaved in such a manner as intitled him to the approbation of the Admiral.

In the year 1767, the Royal Society resolved, that it would be proper to send some persons into some part of the South Seas, to observe the transit of the planet Venus over the Sun's disk; and Otaheite being fixed upon, the *Endeavour*, a ship built for the coal trade, was put into commission, and the command of her given to Lieutenant Cook, who was appointed with Mr. Charles Green to observe the transit.

In this voyage he was accompanied by Joseph Banks, Esq. since Sir Joseph, and Dr. Solander. On the 13th of April, 1769, he came to Otaheite, where the transit of Venus was observed in different parts of the island. He came to anchor in the Downs on the 12th of June, after having been absent almost three years, in which he had made discoveries equal to all the navigators of his country, from the time of Columbus to the present.

Soon after Captain Cook's return to England, it was resolved to equip two ships to complete the discovery of the Southern hemisphere. It had long been a prevailing idea, that the unexplored part contained another continent. To ascertain the fact was the principal object of this expedition; and that nothing might be
omitted