

of those Voyages in which I have been engaged, and may be said to have conducted, to observe, that they were Voyages of COMMERCE, and not of DISCOVERY; and that whatever novelty they may possess, or original information they may bestow, arose out of, and form, as it were, an incidental part of a commercial undertaking.

The vessels committed to my command, were fitted out in the ports of the East, by the commercial zeal of British subjects in that part of the globe.—It was my office, under their spirited and confidential encouragement, to explore new regions of Trade;—the interest therefore of those patriotic merchants and gentlemen, who had entrusted a very considerable property to my care and controul, and the honour of gaining a small portion of that reputation which is due to those who promote the extension of the British commerce, were the sole incentives to my zeal, and alone supported me under the difficulties, and amidst the dangers I encountered in discharging my duty. When I was struggling with the storms of the Pacific Ocean,—when I was locked up in ice, and suffering the accumulated wretchedness of that situation on the shores of America,—or when I was engaged in advancing the principal object of the Voyage,—and availing myself of any accidental opportunity which occurred, of exploring those dubious coasts, I little thought it would be my future lot to give the history of this part of my maritime life to the world.—If I had looked forward to the possibility of such an event,
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