
INTRODUCTION.

THE youthful reader, and even many of those of maturer years, will not be displeased to find, at the commencement of a collection like the present, a few observations and particulars relative to the general subject, which may enable them to form a more accurate comprehension of the facts and circumstances detailed in the work. To those who are but little versed in naval affairs, we are confident they will prove equally useful and interesting.

*Of the Economy of the British Navy, and the individual
Ships of which it is composed.*

OBSERVATIONS ON SHIPPING IN GENERAL.

The arts of vavigation and ship-building are of such a complicated nature as to require the ingenuity and experience of many successive ages to bring them to any degree of perfection. From the raft, or canoe, which assisted the savage to cross the river that obstructed him in the pursuits of the chase, to the proud vessel charged with the fate of hundreds, and transporting them to the remotest regions, the distance is immense. How many efforts must have been made, how many experiments tried, and how much labor and invention employ